

Hon. Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Health
PO Box 537
Launceston 7250

46 North St,
Devonport 7310
12th May 2015.

Re. Response to Draft White Paper relating to N.W. Hospital Services

Dear Mr Ferguson,

Thankyou, for the opportunity to comment & express just one of my concerns relating to the above document.

Firstly, I am enthusiastic about your plans to centralise Tasmania's health administration in Launceston.

The Premier, recently described aspects of the Health Forum in Burnie as "parochialism at it's worst".

You would know that for many years now, there has been a level of antagonism between the two hospitals, particularly toward the MCH.

My concern is that this level of antagonism has in some ways negatively affected services at the MCH. For example, I am told that there is a far larger group of permanent or contracted doctors/clinicians at the NWRH than at the MCH, where there seems to be an emphasis to employ mostly locum doctors. It seems the current administration declines doctors wanting contracted positions at the MCH.

Why is this so ?

I have had personal discussions with doctors (& I'm told of others) that have expressed a desire to be contracted to the MCH & to reside in the Devonport region. Permanency in doctor services (rather than locums) would have seen enormous savings to the MCH budget & provided potentially safer outcomes through continuum of care & accountability toward patients & the hospital

I am also concerned that the future of services at the MCH are being determined in part, by professional advice from the Burnie NWRH. This was plainly evident at the recent public forums where I noticed presentations & input from MCH doctors & other MCH professionals were not included. It seemed yet again that antagonism by one hospital toward an other is attempting to influence decision making.

You would also have been made aware of the manipulation of statistical records that do not reflect accurate patient through-put within both hospitals

To conclude;

Some argue that in the N.W., it makes less sense to reduce hospital services in a growing population area while maintaining/expanding hospital services in an area of diminishing population.

However, notwithstanding this, we are all Tasmanians of similar health needs & there is no argument that both ends of the N.W. Coast need appropriate health care.

I believe health care in Tasmania needs to be seen by the public to be safe, fair & appropriate with minimum disadvantage between each of the different regions.

There needs to be an end to the division between the NWRH & the MCH. Ending parochialism, sharing between & unifying both hospitals, I believe will go some long way to achieve the desired outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Bowden (retired After Hours Co-ordinator Nurse)
jobowden@gmail.com

Bowden

RECEIVED
21/5/15 *dmw*

Foy, Cathy (DPaC)

From: Foy, Cathy (DPaC)
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2015 2:21 PM
To: 'jobowden@gmail.com'
Subject: Response to Draft White Paper

Dear Jo

On behalf of the Hon. Michael Ferguson MP thank you for your correspondence received 21 May 2015. Please be advised that your correspondence will be forwarded to the Minister for his attention.

Thank you for contacting this office.

Kind regards

Cathy Foy

Cathy Foy

Administration Assistant

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