

30 April 2015

The Hon M D J Ferguson MP
Minister for Health
Level 4, Reserve Bank Building
111 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Minister Ferguson

The University of Tasmania welcomes the release of the Delivering Safe and Sustainable Clinical Services – White paper and the opportunity to respond to the Exposure Draft.

Tasmania is an island state with one university and one health system. This provides great opportunity for synergies in the pursuit of our shared visions for world class institutions. International evidence shows that the development of a world class health system requires alignment of hospital systems with the research and educational strengths of a university. Both the University and the Department of Health and Human Services have felt the impact of this misalignment which is reflected by Tasmania's absence from the National Health and Medical Research Council's recent announcement of Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres. The University views the alignment of the health system with the University as a significant omission from the Executive Summary and the body of the Exposure Draft.

The attraction and retention of the best clinicians to any health service depends upon providing the full range of clinical practice, education/training and research opportunities for them, and for the staff and trainees that they will attract. It is well recognised that the best health care systems and hospitals in the world combine these three elements to the benefit of their communities. The University, which in this area constitutes the Faculty of Health and the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, is most willing to be a full participant in the necessary transformation of the provision of health services.

The Exposure Draft highlights the importance of good governance for the Tasmanian health system. Integrative governance functions that sit over and across the three pillars of excellence in health care: clinical services, research and workforce education will ensure alignment between the future Tasmanian hospital system and the University. The University envisions a Research, Workforce and Education Advisory Group sitting alongside the Clinical Advisory Groups in the governance network of the hospital system. The University considers that the governance framework needs to acknowledge and clearly reflect alignment with the university research and education functions.

The Tasmanian Academic Health Science Precinct (TAHSP) is a collaborative partnership successfully driving improvement in clinical services and clinical practice through research, evaluation and clinical redesign. Governance of the TAHSP is through a high value steering

committee of senior health leaders and academics, with an advisory committee drawn from key public and private organisations. The University proposes that TAHSP provides a governance model for the Research, Workforce and Education Advisory Group to establish these important linkages and relationships for the Tasmanian health system.

The University is strongly committed to the development of a world class health system for Tasmania. This can only be achieved through close collaboration between the health system and the university, and the establishment of a governance model for the health system that integrates clinical excellence, research and workforce development. This will ensure that our two institutions realise their visions and ensure better health outcomes for Tasmanians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Calford', written in a cursive style.

Professor Mike Calford
Provost

Copy: Professor Denise Fassett, Dean, Faculty of Health