South Australian
Salaried Medical Officers Association

South Australian Branch
Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation

3 May 2021

Ms Lindsey Gough
Chief Executive Officer
Women's and Children's Health Network
72 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006

ATT: Ms Wendy Rowell
Director, nWCH Commissioning and Engagement

Dear Ms Gough

Re: nWCH Infectious Diseases (the ID Unit) – FUNCTIONAL DESIGN BRIEF AND TREATMENT SPACES

We are writing to you in relation to the above matter. SASMOA recently met with doctors in the ID Unit. It is clear from the FDB on page 333 there is no agreement by the ID Unit regarding the content currently within the FDB.

> "*Infectious Diseases are not prepared to agree to the FDB without seeing the final numbers of rooms, agreed size of the rooms etc. This data is critical to everything we do, and we understand this is available and should be presented to us before seeking an agreement to the final document. The caveat approach XX etc is totally unacceptable for many obvious reasons. Infectious Diseases cannot endorse the document until this has been resolved.*"

SASMOA supports the position of members in the ID Unit and cannot support the FDB whilst all these matters remain outstanding. Once the information has been confirmed as per the above, can you please provide to SASMOA so further consultation can occur.

Treatment Spaces

SASMOA confirms that the treatments spaces are not supported by the ID Unit. The ID Unit together with many other Units in the Women's and Children's Hospital (**WCH**) have advised that the proposed Paediatric Treatment Unit (**PDU**) are insufficient treatment spaces for the new hospital and cannot be endorsed. SASMOA confirms that Drs Crafter, Flynn and Ritchie have spoken to the Units and submitted a paper confirming the number of treatment spaces for the PDU in the new hospital. SASMOA will not support anything less than what is in the document submitted.

Office Accommodation

The Unit requires individual enclosed office accommodation for the clinicians. Dr Celia Cooper, a leading Infectious Disease expert has expressed concern regarding open workspace planning primarily because this type of planning no longer fits within the current response to pandemic learnings. Dr Cooper, given her expertise, has provided presentations and reports to the employer. Dr

Cooper also is a member of the workspace committee for the new hospital. The writers understand that advice provided by Dr Cooper has not changed the planning to accommodate all clinical staff into an open plan workspace. SASMOA supports Dr Cooper's position and will not endorse an open plan workspace at the new hospital.

Additionally, enclosed single office accommodation provides for patient privacy and confidentiality and the ability for the doctors to perform their duties and responsibilities. Doctors in the Unit advise that they require individual enclosed office accommodation to conduct their clinical and non-clinical responsibilities and is a basic professional requirement.

The doctors participate in telehealth services from their office. This cannot occur in an open planned office due to noise levels, confidentiality and privacy and is simply unethical.

The doctors advise that the failure to consult on workspace options and what clinical staff require in their Unit is a failure in the planning of the new Women's and Children's Hospital.

There is nothing in the FDB that provides for confidentiality and requirements of clinical work this is required to be included in the FDB.

This information regarding office accommodation is provided in the SDM. Please see attached SDM for further information. Items from SDM have not been transferred to the FDB including SA Pathology issues. This needs to be an action item.

The Unit has several concerns based on the information provided above. These should be addressed as a matter of priority.

Should you have any questions regarding the abovementioned please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette Mulholland
SASMOA, Chief Industrial Officer

Tea Boromisa
SASMOA, Principal Industrial Relations Adviser