

13 July 2009



Dr J.M. Woollard
 Chairman, Education and Health Standing Committee
 Parliament House
 PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Woollard

**REVIEW OF WA CURRENT AND FUTURE HOSPITAL AND
 COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review pertaining to the future hospital and community health care services in Western Australia, particularly as they relate to the Reid Report.

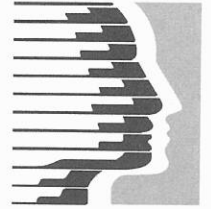
While not employed by the Peel Health Campus at the time, my understanding from the initial handover from the previous Chief Executive at the time, and from correspondence records, indicates that Peel Health Campus was given less than 24 hours warning as to a meeting to have input into the Reid Report.

As such the input by the Campus was minimal.

In reading the Reid report it is of concern that the strategic role of the Peel Health Campus is not defined, yet the Peel area is identified as having the most significant population growth projections. Not surprisingly the much needed co-ordination of services between the Rockingham (Kwinana) General Hospital (RGH) and the Peel Health Campus are not defined in a meaningful way, yet these facilities are geographically located close to each other. For example, both centres have a Paediatric Unit and an Obstetric Unit where human resources required to operate these services are difficult to come by, and neither service is of a size to offset the associated costs effectively. Consequently both services are struggling to meet the demands placed upon them.

The Peel Region is experiencing the same needs which gave rise to the report being prepared in the first instance, these including as examples an ageing and rapidly growing population, a widening between the wealthy and the poor, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, escalating service demand with a lack of correlating funding, workforce shortages and increasing demands for mental health, aged care and rehabilitation services. As the Reid Report identifies, the growth in the South West and Peel region is the fastest in Western Australia, and yet the report has excluded a sizable hospital facility in its strategic outline.

Peel
 Health
 Campus



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 in Health*

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The recently released document, Directions 2031, Draft Spatial Framework for Perth and Peel released in June 2009, prepared by the Western Australian Planning Commission, reinforces the growth and subsequent demand expected in the region. The report states that that Peel will grow by 50% by 2031. The report also identifies the development of various strategic industrial centres in the region, primarily mining based.

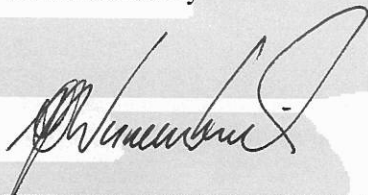
It is thus my submission that the strategic role of the Campus needs to be visited as it pertains to this document.

An operational example to support this is evidenced in our recent efforts to attract additional surgical cases. Arising from the implementation of a new medical model, the Campus was able to accept a projected additional 300 surgical cases per month. Other than a fee to offset the administrative cost in screening these patients, the funding would have been absorbed within the existing MPA. Having managed its own waitlist, the Campus sought additional work from the public system via the Minister for Health. While the Minister fully supported these efforts, the system was only able to produce a small number of patients, yet there are some 11,000 individuals on the waitlist.

I acknowledge that local politicians, notably Mr David Templeman (MLA) and Dr Sally Talbot have both been active in seeking high-level strategic recognition of the Campus in the health service planning for Western Australia.

I am pleased to hear that the Committee is undertaking this review. Should additional information or clarification be required I am only too happy to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN WISNEWSKI-SMITH
Chief Executive