



Ms Jaye Radisich MLA
Member for Swan Hills
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Radisich

RE: Swan Districts Hospital

Members of this Association are greatly concerned that the transfer of Royal Perth Hospital facilities to the proposed tertiary hospitals at Murdoch and to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital at Nedlands makes health services even less accessible than they are now for residents of the eastern suburbs and the Hills areas.

The situation becomes even more perilous for emergency patients such as cardiac cases. There is no doubt that the extra distance to Murdoch or Nedlands will result in death for people who might have survived if they had only to travel to Royal Perth.

We note that the President of the Australian Medical Association (WA), Dr Paul Skerritt, drew attention to the need for better health facilities in the eastern suburbs. We are appalled that the Health Minister Mr McGinty, in reply, stated that the Government is determined to take health services "closer to where people lived" (ABC News 29 March 2005). Some 350,000 persons live east of the city and are not too happy at being so ignored.

We were also interested at the report in *The Echo* of 20 August 2005 which stated that the State Opposition has put forward a plan to base a new hospital in Midland closer to the train station. This was followed on 21 September by a media statement from Mr McGinty (quoted in *Hills Gazette*, 24-30 September 2005) that the government intends to upgrade Swan Districts Hospital or build a new hospital.

This prospect of such development being implemented by either side of the political spectrum is cheering but it would be more so if it were to occur before Royal Perth Hospital was transferred.

We feel that in the provision of medical services (as in tertiary education services) the eastern region has been overlooked for far too long in favour of the western, southern and northern sections of the metropolitan area.

We would welcome an undertaking from the Minister for Health that the proposals for Swan District Hospital are to be very quickly implemented, preferably before the Royal Perth transfer, and with updated emergency services, particularly for major trauma and cardiac cases.

We would also welcome an assurance from you that you are seeking the best possible outcome for the Eastern Metropolitan Region health service.

Yours sincerely

Islay Kelly
(Vice President)

13 October 2005

C: Hon. Michelle Roberts