



Our Ref: 4-37006

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

ATTORNEY GENERAL: ELECTORAL AFFAIRS

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FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Mr Mike Davies  
Chairman  
Stoneville Progress Association Inc  
PO Box 33  
STONEVILLE WA 6081

Dear Mr Davies

Thank you for your letter dated 4 April 2006 regarding access to health care services. I apologise that earlier correspondence dated 27 February 2006 did not address all of your concerns.

The Government is aware of the significant challenges facing the health industry and is working to address them. The Western Australian Health Clinical Services Framework 2005 – 2015 maps out the long-term health reform program for the Western Australian Government Health System. Improving access to health services is a key, long-term objective outlined within the Clinical Services Framework.

The number of beds at a health service only forms part of the picture of health service provision. Swan Kalamunda Health Service (SKHS) is comprised of the Swan District Hospital and the Kalamunda District Community Hospital. SKHS currently services a catchment population of approximately 264,783 and this is projected to grow to approximately 289,589 by 2011. In 2005, SKHS provided 23,384 episodes of inpatient care over 66,010 bed days with a bed stock of 233. Outpatient occasions of service provided across SKHS totalled 308,408 in 2005.

Many of the services provided from Royal Perth Hospital are statewide specialist services. In the context of a catchment area it is not appropriate to view the relocation of Royal Perth Hospital as a loss to residents of the North and East metropolitan corridor.

As you are aware, SKHS bed numbers will increase from the current 233 to 380 by 2010 and to over 400 by 2015. To support projected staffing needs the number of nursing graduate placement positions has been expanded at SKHS. In addition the medical workforce training program has been enhanced with additional on site academic positions to supervise the ongoing training of increased numbers of medical graduates at Swan District Hospital.

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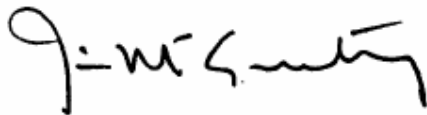
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Initiatives to improve access to primary care locally include the construction of an after-hours General Practice Clinic adjacent to the Emergency Department at Swan District Hospital. The clinic is expected to commence operation late in 2006. Negotiations are also underway to provide land on the Kalamunda Hospital site to a consortium of General Practitioners for the construction of a primary care centre.

If you still require a meeting with myself in light of this information, please contact my appointment secretary on 9220 5000. Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McGinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JIM McGINTY MLA  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

07 JUL 2006