



27 August 2015

Ms Rhia Victorino
Principal Council Officer
General Purpose Standing Committee Number 3
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Victorino

RE: LEICHHARDT COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE TO THE INQUIRY INTO REGISTERED NURSES IN NSW NURSING HOMES

I am writing in response to your letter dated 12 August 2015 enclosing the transcript of evidence presented by representatives of Leichhardt Council to the Inquiry on Wednesday 5 August 2015. You have invited our representatives to review the transcript, and you have also sought responses to a number of Questions on Notice.

The transcript has been reviewed by Cllr Linda Kelly, Cllr John Jobling and Ms Erla Ronan. Enclosed please find a copy of the Transcript, annotated with corrections made by the Leichhardt representatives. As requested, corrections are marked in red ink in the left margin, with relevant text circled. Please refer **Attachment 1, Corrections to Transcript, Leichhardt Council**.

Response to Questions on Notice

Question P. 69 of Transcript

CHAIR: I congratulate you on the fine work you have done in bringing to this inquiry the important role of local government. We have heard that the State has vacated the space, but we know that at the end of the day so much care of communities is up to local government. You have submitted great documents. You are obviously playing an active role in the ageing in place programs by offering many services. You say you have 513 people in residential facilities. Do you know the ages of those people?

Ms KELLY: The majority of them would be over 65, but some may have an age-related illness and be under 65.

Ms RONAN: Can we get that from our aged care?

Ms KELLY: We can certainly request that and provide it.



Response:

While Leichhardt Council provides home-based services for residents, Leichhardt Council is not a provider of residential aged care. Leichhardt Council cannot access the demographic data of residents of aged care facilities. A comprehensive list of all residential aged care facilities in Leichhardt local government area is available through the following weblink published by the Commonwealth Government.

<https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/residential?lqaid=95&stateid=2>.

Questions P. 71 of Transcript

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: Were any of the six facilities previously classified as low care?

Ms KELLY: We will take that question on notice. We said that we will try to get a breakdown of those numbers.

Response:

The Commonwealth Government website

<https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/residential?lqaid=95&stateid=2> does not publish information on low care or high care beds.

Questions P. 71 of Transcript (continued)

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: If one or more are low-care facilities, what is your view of the effect on their future viability if they are required to have a registered nurse on duty 24/7?

Ms KELLY: We will take that question on notice.

Response:

Council is not the Regulator of the operation of Aged Care Facilities and therefore is not in a position to assess their viability.

Questions P. 71 of Transcript (continued)

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I again refer to the last page of your submission and the last dot point. You mention some of your concerns about changes to the Commonwealth Aged Care Act. At the fourth dot point you state that the changes will potentially remove the role and importance of aged-care assessment teams. Representatives from the Commonwealth Government who appeared before the Committee earlier today did not raise that issue. Who has raised that concern with the council?

Ms KELLY: We will take that question on notice and provide more information.



Response:

If a resident is experiencing challenges in their home and community environment, Council refers the person to the Aged Care Assessment Team, for investigation and review in terms of what assistance is required. This is a vital community service and Council would not want that service to be downgraded or reduced.

Response to Supplementary Question: What recommendations to the NSW Government would you like to see come out of this inquiry?

Response:

Please refer to the enclosed **Attachment Two: Submission from Leichhardt Council to the Inquiry.**

Should you require any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me on 9367 9285.

Yours sincerely

Erla Ronan
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER