

10.4. General Manager's Reports

10.4.1. LATE REPORT - GM - 22/05/2023 - Update Lithgow Community Private

Prepared by Craig Butler - General Manager

Department The Office of the General Manager

Authorised by General Manager

Reference

Summary

The Council has resolved that the status of negotiations between the NSW Government and Lithgow Community Private for agreements to support LCP's ongoing operation be reported each second month. This report responds to that resolution.

Commentary

There are two principal matters that LCP is pursuing with the NSW Government -

1. Development of a service agreement, and,
2. Funding to support recovery from the impacts of the responses to Covid.

Advice has been obtained from LCP about the status of these matters.

It has been confirmed that discussions between Lithgow Community Private (LCP) and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) are progressing. On May 12, both parties met in Lithgow to discuss details of the proposed future service agreement. The meeting was constructive, and progress is being made. It was also acknowledged that such agreements are complex in nature and will take time to finalise. Both parties are working to achieve this goal.

In the meantime, LCP and Lithgow Hospital are operating as usual. LCP is offering the full range of specialist medical services and day surgery to the community, however day surgery levels at LCP have not yet returned to pre-Covid levels. LCP commissioned its new lung function machine in May and the respiratory physician is very pleased with its operation and results. All patients using the service are bulk billed and can have consultation and diagnostic testing done in the same appointment.

LCP have also confirmed that they will continue to work with the new State Government to request financial support to assist with recovery from the impacts of the Covid response.

Correspondence was also forwarded by the Mayor to the newly appointed Minister for Health in April 2023. This requested support for early attention being given to these two matters by the new Government. An invitation was also made for the Minister to visit the city to view the innovative model of specialist medical service delivery that LCP provides in a regional setting, and to hear about the particular health needs of the Lithgow community. At the time of preparing this report, no response had been received to this correspondence.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

- Budget approved - Nil
- Cost centre - Nil
- Expended to date - Nil
- Future potential impact - Nil

Legal and Risk Management Implications

Nil

Attachments

Nil

Recommendation

THAT

the report detailing the status of negotiations between Lithgow Community Private and the NSW Government be received.