

s22

**From:** s47F @awh.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 November 2022 4:06 PM  
**To:** s47F (Health)  
**Cc:** s47F (Health); s22; s47F  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: For Action: Commonwealth Nov 2022 Progress Report and updated project plan - Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit

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s47F  
 Thank you for your time today.  
 As discussed, our CEO Bill Appleby and I met with s47F and s47F on Thursday 10 November to discuss the COSH and Mental Health Rehabilitation projects at Wodonga campus. As you may know, Premiers Andrews and Perottet recently announced \$558 million budget commitment to the first stages of redevelopment on the Albury campus.  
 The strategic intent for the future of the Wodonga campus is to create a 'health and wellbeing' hub – exact details to be determined through an integrated service plan to be developed in 2023, with a view to detailed master planning for the Wodonga site following directly afterwards.  
 With this in mind, AWH would like to defer the remainder of the \$14.5million through to 23/24 or potentially 24/25 to ensure that the mental health rehabilitation and specialist outpatient facilities align with the master plan. s47F  
 and his team were supportive of this approach.  
 I have had a brief conversation with s22 regarding this today.  
 Can you advise the process we need to follow to formally request this deferral.

Regards

s47F  


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**From:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 10 November 2022 1:48 PM  
**To:** s47F @awh.org.au>; s47F @awh.org.au>  
**Cc:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: For Action: Commonwealth Nov 2022 Progress Report and updated project plan - Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit  
**Importance:** High

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Hi s47F and s47F  
 I am s47F, a Principal External Reporting Officer in VHBA Project Management Office. I coordinate all external reporting including the Commonwealth project status report. I have contacted s47F and he referred me to you.  
 Earlier this year, s47F might have been in touch with Wodonga Hospital regarding the Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit project status report.  
 Based on the National Partnership Agreement, Wodonga Hospital is required to provide a Nov 2022 project status report (see snip below).

Wodonga Hospital – development of a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and delivery of an expanded range of consulting clinical suites.	Provide a plan containing project milestones and timelines to the Commonwealth	31/12/2
	Provide bi-annual status reports in May and November on projects including photographs of progress (via the Commonwealth Department of Health's Capital Works Portal system)	Novem May 21
	Provide bi-annual status reports in May and November on projects including photographs of progress (via the Commonwealth Department of Health's Capital Works Portal system)	Novem May 21
	Provide a final report including a description of the project, opening dates and a Certificate of Practical Completion.	Upon c of proj

I have attached the May 2022 Status Report for you to look over.

Could you please prepare a similar report for November 2022 and complete the cover page?

Kindly provide us your **CEO approved report by 25 November 2022.**

The Commonwealth Government is also asking for an updated project plan. I've attached the old project plan provided to Commonwealth.

Please update the plan accordingly and provide it along with the project status report.

Please let me know if you need any clarification.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

s47F

Principal Reporting Officer  
PMO and Governance, VHBA

P: s47F

E: s47F [@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@health.vic.gov.au)



Victorian  
Health Building  
Authority

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**From:** s47F @awh.org.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 November 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** s47F (Health)  
**Cc:** s47F (Health); s22; s47F  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: For Action: Commonwealth Nov 2022 Progress Report and updated project plan - Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit

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s47F

Just advising that our AWH Board of Directors has now formally approved deferral of the COSH and Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit projects until we have developed the service plan and master plan for the Wodonga campus.

These will inform the optimal location and functional adjacencies to deliver these services.

Can you please advise the process for formal request for deferral?

This will be discussed at the VIC/AWH/NSW Steering Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Regards

s47F

s22

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s22

**From:** s22  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 February 2023 4:23 PM  
**To:** s47F; s47F (Health)  
**Cc:** s47F; s22; Portfolio Programs: Government Partnerships  
**Subject:** TRIM: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: For Action: Commonwealth Nov 2022 Progress Report and updated project plan - Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit projects [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F and s47F

I apologise for my delayed reply to this. Too many 'opportunities', too little time!

In regard to the expiry of the agreement you will note that the 'duration' section of the [Community Health and Hospitals Program for Victoria](#) agreement specifies that the schedule '...is expected to expire on 30 June 2025 or on completion of the projects...'. Consequently it doesn't actually expire until all deliverable are complete.

Regarding your request for the Commonwealth (s22) to confirm their support with amending the milestones via a return email, I cannot provide definitive confirmation as the ultimate decision as to whether to agree a variation is one for the Minister. However that said the department's advice would nevertheless be to consider any variation proposed by Victoria within the existing funding envelope that would support or assure delivery of the relevant project. That would be our advice here, particularly where the election commitments (when integrated with the deliverable agreed with the Commonwealth) ultimately result in a better outcome for the health system overall.

Happy to discuss further as required.

Cheers

s22

Dr s22

Director, Government Partnerships  
 Portfolio Programs Branch

Health Systems Strategy Division | Health Strategy, First Nations and Sport Group

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 6289 s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au

Location: Sirius 10.S.152

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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**From:** s47F @awh.org.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 January 2023 2:50 PM  
**To:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47F @awh.org.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: For Action: Commonwealth Nov 2022 Progress Report and updated project plan - Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit

Thank you s47F



If we can put it to June 2025 as a placeholder that would be good.

We are waiting on advice from Vic DoH to commence the service planning shortly and move quickly to master planning to give us greater clarity and certainty.

s47F

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**From:** s47F <[REDACTED]@health.vic.gov.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 30 January 2023 1:56 PM

**To:** s47F <[REDACTED]@awh.org.au>; s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

**Cc:** s47F <[REDACTED]@awh.org.au>; s22 <[REDACTED]@health.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: For Action: Commonwealth Nov 2022 Progress Report and updated project plan - Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit

Hi s47F and s22 Happy New Year!

Just wanted to give you an update on the formalisation of AWH's request via the letter date 14 December 2022, requesting the department to defer the milestones for two projects funded under the CHHP.

We are currently finalising the Ministerial Brief that provide an overview of key context and considerations regarding the two matters raised in the letter. We would appreciate if following items can be clarified / approved by s22 and s47F

- Commonwealth (s22) to confirm their support with amending the milestones via a return email to DH/VHBA.
- Could s47F AWH confirm the expected construction completion dates of the two projects, noting the CHHP agreement expires in June 2025.

We are hoping to get this one to the Secretary as soon as these items clarified.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any clarification.

Thanks.

Regards,

s47F

s47F  
Director, PMO

P. s47F | M. +s47F

---

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s22



## Secretary

Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
Telephone: 1300 650 172  
GPO Box 4057  
Melbourne Victoria 3001  
[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)  
DX 210081

BAC-CO-17428

Bill Appleby  
Chief Executive Officer  
Albury Wodonga Health  
**Via email:** s47F@awh.org.au

Dear Mr Appleby

Thank you for your letter requesting the Department of Health's endorsement to defer the milestones for two capital projects funded primarily under the Commonwealth Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP), and support with developing an entity service plan for ambulatory and community-based services at the Wodonga campus of Albury Wodonga Health (AWH). I apologise for the delay in responding.

My recent visit and Board meeting on 30 August 2023 provided valuable insight into the challenges faced by AWH in delivering these.

I note that the two projects to be delivered by AWH, the Wodonga sub-acute mental health facility and community outpatient specialist hub (COSH), are still in the planning phase.

My department has consulted with our Commonwealth counterpart who is supportive of the proposed approach in principle, noting final acceptance of the proposal is with the Minister.

Considering the announcement by the Victorian and NSW governments to invest \$558 million to redevelop the Albury campus, the Victorian Government supports your request to defer the CHHP project milestones to 2024-25. This will ensure service integration with the broad hospital redevelopment and the most effective use of the funds.

I also acknowledge the challenges and impacts faced by AWH from COVID-19 in delivering the projects since the Commonwealth's announced funding in December 2020

I understand work is progressing on the Wodonga campus entity service plan, due for completion in early 2024, that will consider the service profile for a community health facility that is consistent with identified community needs and identify integrated delivery pathways that complement the bed-based care provided at the Albury campus.

I note that this service plan will depend on the final scope of the redevelopment of the Albury campus to ensure that there is no duplication of services across sites. Further, any future development at the Wodonga site will be subject to government authorisation in line with usual State Budget processes.

Additionally, I note 2025 is the earliest expected commencement date for the Albury campus redevelopment and acute services will remain on the Wodonga campus until the new clinical services building is completed in 2028.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact s47F, Executive General Manager, Infrastructure Planning at s47F [@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:s47F@health.vic.gov.au) or s47F

Yours sincerely

s47F

**Professor Euan M Wallace AM**

Secretary

23/10/2023

**Copy:** s22, Acting Assistant Secretary, Health Infrastructure, Commonwealth Department of Health via email: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

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**From:** National Partnerships Strategy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 December 2023 10:39 AM  
**To:** s47E(d) @health.vic.gov.au  
**Cc:** National Partnerships Strategy; s47E(d) @health.vic.gov.au  
**Subject:** Correspondence from Minister Butler re Community Health and Hospitals Program [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** MS23-001876 Butler to Thomas re CHHP\_15 December 2023.pdf; Thomas to Butler re CHHP\_26 October 2023.pdf

Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Butler regarding Community Health and Hospitals Program National Partnership projects with Victoria. The correspondence responds to Minister Thomas's correspondence of 26 October 2023 (your ref: BAC-CO-37512 also attached).

Regards

s22

Dr s22

Director, National Partnerships Strategy  
Public Hospitals Strategy Branch

Health Systems Strategy Division | Health Strategy, First Nations and Sport Group  
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care  
T: 02 6289 s22 | E: s22 @health.gov.au  
Location: Sirius 10.S.152  
PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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## The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Minister for Health  
Minister for Health Infrastructure  
Minister for Ambulance Services

GPO Box 4057  
Melbourne Victoria 3001  
Telephone: +61 3 9096 8561  
[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

BAC-CO-37512

The Hon Mark Butler MP  
Minister for Health and Aged Care  
*via email only: [minister.butler@health.gov.au](mailto:minister.butler@health.gov.au)*

Dear Minister

*Mark*

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2023 regarding health infrastructure partnership agreements between the Commonwealth and Victoria. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Victorian Government notes the observations of the Australian National Audit Office in its audit of the Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) regarding reporting and assurance processes between the Commonwealth and Victoria. We are committed to working with your department to address the findings.

My department has been working with your department on delivery of our CHHP projects and have provided project updates below.

### Projects affected by Victorian election commitments

#### 1. Albury Wodonga Health

Albury Wodonga Health is a unique cross-border health care service spanning the border of Victoria and New South Wales. Both the Victorian and NSW governments are working together to build new health infrastructure, including a new emergency department and short-stay unit that is currently in construction. In October 2022, both governments committed \$558 [million for the development of a new clinical services tower at Albury. Following this commitment, we are working closely with New South Wales (as lead for the project) and Albury Wodonga Health on the necessary planning and development process to enable design and construction commence.

This commitment has an interrelationship with the mental health rehabilitation unit at the Wodonga Campus. My department is currently working with Albury Wodonga Health to better understand the impacts and will provide further updates to your department once these are better known and there is a greater understanding of the program of works.

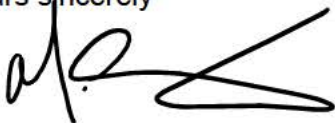
s22

s22

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The relevant departmental contact for this matter is Jodie Gervasoni, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Health Building Authority at the Victorian Department of Health on s47F or s47F @health.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

26/10/2023



**The Hon Mark Butler MP**  
**Minister for Health and Aged Care**

Ref No: MS23-001876

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Health Infrastructure  
Minister for Medical Research  
Level 22, Lonsdale Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
[minister.health@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:minister.health@health.vic.gov.au)

Dear Minister

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) partnership agreements between the Australian Government and Victoria<sup>1</sup>.  
I apologise for the delay in responding.

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A second variation could then be progressed for the other projects once Victoria is in a position to provide assurance of delivery and confirm the delivery approach. The department has advised me that this second variation could include the following projects:

- Wodonga Hospital – development of a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit

s22

s47B(b)

s22



s47B(b)



Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mark Butler

15 / 12 / 2023

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Community Health and Hospitals Program for Victoria FFA – Health Schedule

Proposed updates to address Audit Findings – FOR DISCUSSION

(Note: Proposed updates in red text)

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Deliverable	Milestone	Due	Payment

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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

**Signed** *for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by*

**The Honourable Mark Butler MP**  
Minister for Health and Aged Care  
[Day] [Month] [Year]

**Signed** *for and on behalf of the  
State of Victoria by*

**The Honourable Mary-Anne Thomas MP**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Health Infrastructure  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
[Day] [Month] [Year]

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**From:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 May 2024 3:03 PM  
**To:** s22 National Partnerships Strategy; s22  
**Cc:** s47F (Health); s47F (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: FW: CHHP FFA Schedules with Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Commonwealth Projects - Stage 1 Variations (06052024) (002).xlsx; Commonwealth Projects - Stage 2 Variations (06052024) (004).xlsx

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good Day, s22

I hope you are doing well.

In preparation for tomorrow's discussion, I'm sharing VHBA's draft response to commonwealth's proposed deliverables and Milestone for stage 1 Projects. We can discuss them in detail tomorrow during meeting.

s47B(b)

Thanks.

Regards,

s47

s47F

Project Director, Project Initiation

P. s47F | M. s47F

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**From:** s47F (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:05 AM  
**To:** s22 @health.gov.au>; s47E(d) @health.gov.au  
**Cc:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>; s47F @health.vic.gov.au>; s47F @health.vic.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au  
**Subject:** FW: OFFICIAL - Sensitive: FW: CHHP FFA Schedules with Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning s22

I hope you are well and I'm happy to re connect with you and your team at commonwealth on the CHHP Program.

As you maybe aware, s47F and PMO team is busy with VIDA transition, so I'm stepping in and assisting the team in getting through CHHP with obtaining necessary approvals internally for the proposed variations for Stage 1 projects as well as working with responsible project directors and getting more clarity and status of the stage 2 projects so that we can table the revised milestones and any alternate proposals that VHBA would like to propose.

I'm aiming to have a meeting with your team during the week commencing 6 May, so please let me know if you have any preferred day and time.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further. Thank You.

Regards,

s47F

s47F  
Project Director, Project Initiation

P. s47F | M. s47F

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

**From:** National Partnerships Strategy s47E(d) @health.gov.au>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 1:34 PM

**To:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>; s47F

s47F @health.vic.gov.au>

**Cc:** s47F @health.vic.gov.au>; VHBA PMO (Health) s47E(d) @health.vic.gov.au>;

s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>;

s22 @health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22

s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>; National Partnerships Strategy s47E(d) @health.gov.au>; s22 @health.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: CHHP FFA Schedules with Victoria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Importance:** High

Dear s47F and s47F

I am following up on my email below. This Friday (26 April) will be 6 weeks since we sought to engage with you on this important work and we are yet to hear back from you. We indicated below we were hoping to have progressed discussions by the week of 8 April 2024 at the latest to move the matter forward. While we appreciate there are other priorities, we are concerned that the extended timeframe may soon be limiting to our options to move this forward effectively.

s47B(b)

If there are concerns or impediments to moving this forward please feel free to contact either <sup>s22</sup> (copied) or myself directly.

We look forward to hearing back.

Thanks

s22

Dr s22

Director, National Partnerships Strategy  
Public Hospitals Strategy Branch

Health Systems Strategy Division | Health Strategy, First Nations and Sport Group

Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

T: 02 6289 s22 | E: s22 [@health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

Location: Sirius 10.S.152

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

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CHHP Agreement	Agreement expiration date	Stage	Project Title	Senior ED/Delivery Team	Commonwealth Total Funding (\$m)
s22					
s4/B(b)					
s22					

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Amount Paid by Commonwealth (\$m)	Amount Remaining (\$m)	Commonwealth Proposed Changes - Deliverable	Commonwealth Proposed Changes - Milestones (completed)
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s4/B(b)

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Commonwealth comments (as provided by Commonwealth Team) Victoria

SED confirmation of agreement with proposal (Yes/No)

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s47B(b)

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If "No" to column K, please provide alternative proposal/comments

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s4/B(b)

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

**Meeting Brief**

MB21-004038

Version (1)

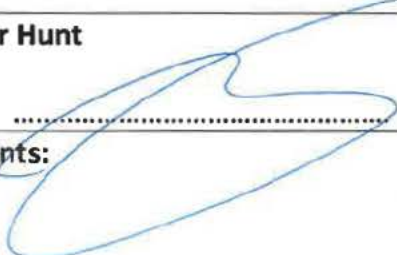
Date sent to MO: 25/10/21

**RECEIVED**

27 OCT 2021

To: Minister Hunt

Subject: Meeting Brief - Helen Haines MP - Albury-Wodonga Hospital and Bright Aged Care

<b>Minister Hunt</b>			
Signed 		Date: 26 / 10 / 2021	
Comments:			
Contact Officer:	s22	Director, Hospital Systems Section, National Health Reform Branch, Portfolio Strategies Division	Ph: (02) 6289 s22 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	Fifine Cahill	Assistant Secretary, National Health Reform Branch, Portfolio Strategies Division	Ph: (02) 6289 s22 Mobile: s22

**Date / Time:** Wednesday 27 October 6:30pm-6:45pm**Meeting Type/Location:** Parliament House, Room M1.41**Traditional Custodians:** Ngunnawal People

**Purpose:** To discuss the services delivered by Albury-Wodonga Health and Bright Aged Care, and mental health services for Corryong Health.

**Desired Outcomes:** To better understand local health and aged care issues in the Albury-Wodonga region.

Key Attendees/Speakers:	Title:	Organisation:	Mobile No:
Helen Haines	Dr	Member for Indi	Unknown
s22	Mr	Policy Adviser to Dr Haines MP	Unknown

**Key Matters:**

The Government is making a significant investment in the Albury-Wodonga region to support the public health and hospital services for the local community. The Australian Government is also committed to supporting a sustainable high-quality aged care sector, including in regional communities.

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The National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) recognises that state and territory governments are the system managers of their public hospital systems, responsible for planning and funding capital and for the day-to-day operations of their public hospitals. Decisions concerning infrastructure, staffing, service provision and patient transport in the Albury-Wodonga region rests with the Victorian and New South Wales (NSW) Governments.

Any Australian Government contribution to the proposed redevelopment Victorian State Government's Bright Hospital precinct, operated by Alpine Health, would need to be considered in the context of the availability of future capital grant funding opportunities, which will include additional support being made available for aged care for regional and remote Australia.

**Discussion Guide:**

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**Key Points:***Albury-Wodonga Hospital*

- Albury-Wodonga Health Local Hospital Network, which administers the Albury-Wodonga Hospital, received \$33.8 million in Australian Government Activity Based Funding for public hospital services in 2020–21. This is an increase of \$12.1 million, or 56 per cent, since 2012–2013 (\$21.7 million).

**OFFICIAL**

**OFFICIAL**

- In 2019-20, The Australian Government made a block funded contribution of \$11.2 million to the Albury-Wodonga Health LHN for services such as those provided by small rural hospitals.
- An estimated \$329 million of health spending in 2019-20 is attributable to Commonwealth health programs in Albury-Wodonga and the surrounding areas.

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**Background:**

- Albury-Wodonga Health (AWH) is Australia's only cross-border public health service and operates under an agreement between the NSW and Victorian Government. AWH provides health services to more than 250,000 people. The Government's public hospital funding for AWH is provided through two Local Hospital Networks: Albury-Wodonga Health (in respect of Victoria) and Albury NSW Local Health District (in respect of NSW).
- AWH is a 337 bed health service that treated over 61,000 emergency presentations, more than 40,000 inpatients, and delivered 1650 babies in the last 12 months. Services are provided from 17 sites. There are 30 sub-acute beds, 95 mental health beds, five intensive care beds, seven operating theatres, and 117 general beds. The Victorian Minister for Health and Aged Care has confirmed AWH as one of nine Victorian COVID-19 hospital vaccination hubs.
- The Australian Government also provides funding and support for the AWH and for specific health services in the Albury-Wodonga region more generally through several programs, including public hospitals, Medicare benefits, community health infrastructure, Primary Health Networks, and health workforce assistance.

**Community Health & Hospitals Program**

- Through the \$1.25 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program and other 2019–20 Budget measures, the Australian Government is investing in projects and services in every state and territory that support patient care while reducing pressure on community and hospital services. Of this funding, Victoria is receiving close to \$420 million and NSW over \$409 million towards priority projects identified for those states.
- The Victorian Government will receive \$14.5 million for the Albury-Wodonga Health Wodonga Hospital Campus to develop a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and deliver an expanded range of consulting clinical suites at Wodonga Hospital.

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**Attachments**

Attachment A: Biography of Dr Helen Haines MP

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**OFFICIAL****Attachment A****Biographies****Helen Haines MP**

Dr Helen Mary Haines has served as the independent MP for the Victorian seat of Indi since the 2019 federal election.

Dr Haines has lived and worked as a nurse, midwife, health administrator and medical researcher in North East Victoria (Chiltern, Rutherglen and Wangaratta) for more than 32 years.

She has committed her working life to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of communities across the North East.

Dr Haines is a senior research fellow at the University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health, Melbourne Medical School, Director of the Rural Health Academic Network (RHAN) and Executive Director of the Education and Research Unit at Northeast Health Wangaratta.

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

**Ministerial Information Request****MB20-004587****Version (1)****Date sent to MO: 22/12/2020****To: Minister Hunt****Subject: Hospital services in Albury-Wodonga (Dr Helen Haines MP obo**

s47F

s47F

**Response:**

- The Australian Government is committed to improving access to hospital and community health services to ensure that members of the Australian community have access to health care in all jurisdictions, when and where they need it.
- Through the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA), the Government provides a significant funding contribution to assist states and territories with the costs of delivering public hospital services.
- The Government's funding contribution for public hospitals in all states and territories under the NHRA has grown from \$13.3 billion in 2012–13 to \$22.6 billion in 2019–20, or by 70 per cent. This funding is projected to continue to grow under the 2020–25 NHRA to \$133.6 billion between 2020–21 and 2024–25.
- Albury Wodonga Health is Australia's only cross-border public health service and operates under an agreement between the New South Wales and Victorian Governments. The Government's public hospital funding for Albury Wodonga Health is provided through two Local Hospital Networks: Albury Wodonga Health (in respect of Victoria) and Albury NSW Local Health District (in respect of NSW).
- Albury Wodonga Health and Albury NSW Local Health District received a combined \$100.1 million in Government Activity Based Funding for public hospital services in 2019–20. This is an increase of \$78.4 million, or 362 per cent, since 2012–13 (\$21.7 million). In 2019–20, the Government also made a combined block funded contribution of \$17.3 million to Albury Wodonga Health and Albury NSW Local Health District for services as teaching, training and research.
- Through the \$1.25 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) and other 2019–20 Budget measures, the Government is investing in projects and services in every state and territory that support patient care while reducing pressure on community and hospital services. Of this funding, Victoria is receiving close to \$420 million and New South Wales over \$409 million towards priority projects identified for those states.

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- The Victorian Government will receive \$14.5 million for the Albury Wodonga Health Wodonga Hospital Campus to develop a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and deliver an expanded range of consulting clinical suites at Wodonga Hospital.
- This project will support the transition from inpatient care to the community, and provide an alternative to acute inpatient and emergency department admission, as well as significantly improving the transition of mental healthcare between acute and community services.
- Funding for this project was due to commence in 2022–23; however, the Government is bringing forward funding over three years from 2020–21 in response to the significant impacts of the bushfire emergency in the Albury Wodonga region in early 2020.
- Under the NHRA, the state and territory governments have committed to providing eligible patients with the choice to receive public hospital services free-of-charge, on the basis of clinical need and within a clinically appropriate period. Arrangements are to be in place to ensure equitable access to such services, regardless of geographical location.
- The NHRA recognises that state and territory governments are the system managers of their public hospital systems, responsible for capital funding and the day-to-day operations of their public hospitals. As such, decisions concerning the planning of infrastructure, staffing, bed availability and patient transport in the Albury-Wodonga region rests with the Victorian and NSW Governments.
- s47F may wish to raise his concerns with the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Martin Foley MP and/or the NSW Minister for Health, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP. Minister Foley's contact details are as follows:  
 The Hon Martin Foley MP  
 Minister for Health  
 Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street  
 MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
 Email: [martin.foley@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:martin.foley@parliament.vic.gov.au)
- Minister Hazzard's contact details are as follows:  
 The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
 Minister for Health and Medical Research  
 GPO Box 5341  
 SYDNEY NSW 2001  
[www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-health-and-medical-research](http://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-for-health-and-medical-research)
- s47F may also wish to write to Albury Wodonga Health to notify them of his concerns about his treatment. It is helpful for hospitals to formally hear about problems experienced by their patients so that they can be investigated and hospital procedures and protocols checked. The hospital may be best contacted at: [feedback@awh.org.au](mailto:feedback@awh.org.au)

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**OFFICIAL****Cover Page for Ministers' Offices**

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Minister Hunt</b>
<b>PDR Number</b>	<b>MB20-004587</b>
<b>Subject</b>	Hospital services in Albury-Wodonga
<b>Due Date</b>	<b>22 December 2020</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Check (completed by line area)</b>	s22 [REDACTED]
<b>Contact Officer</b>	s22 [REDACTED]
<b>Clearance Officer</b>	Fifine Cahill (02) 6289 s22 [REDACTED] s22 [REDACTED]
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Portfolio Strategies Division

**Adviser/DLO Comments:**Return to  
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Electorate Brief: INDI

Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP)

Through the \$1.25 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) and other 2019-20 Budget measures, the Australian Government is investing approximately \$420 million across Victoria to fund projects and services to support patient care while reducing pressure on community and hospital services. Of this, the Victorian Government will receive \$14.5 million, over three financial years from 2020-21, for the development of a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and delivery of an expanded range of consulting clinical suites at Wodonga Hospital.

Program	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)	2020-21 (\$m)	2021-22 (\$m)	2022-23 (\$m)	2023-24 (\$m)	2024-25 (\$m)	TOTAL (\$m)
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## Other payments

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Wodonga Hospital			2.500	6.000	6.000			<b>14.500</b>
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**OFFICIAL****Public Hospitals**

Please note, not all information contained in the Department's Electorate Reports is publically available.

- There are 12 public hospitals in the federal electorate of Indi:
  - Albury Wodonga Health - Wodonga Campus
  - Alexandra District Hospital
  - Alpine Health (Bright)
  - Alpine Health (Mount Beauty)
  - Alpine Health (Myrtleford)
  - Beechworth Health Service
  - Benalla Health
  - Mansfield District Hospital
  - Northeast Health Wangaratta
  - Tallangatta Health Service
  - Upper Murray Health and Community Services
  - Yea and District Memorial Hospital
- These public hospitals are administered by 10 Local Hospital Networks (LHN):
  - Albury Wodonga Health
  - Alexandra District Hospital
  - Alpine Health
  - Beechworth Health Service
  - Benalla Health
  - Mansfield District Hospital
  - Northeast Health Wangaratta
  - Tallangatta Health Service
  - Upper Murray Health & Community Services
  - Yea & District Memorial Hospital.
- Funding amounts are reported at the LHN level and are not able to be attributed to individual public hospitals.
- The split between Commonwealth and State block funding cannot be separately identified at the LHN level. Total Block funding represents NHR payments made by Tasmania from the State Managed Fund (SMF) to the LHN.

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- The Albury Wodonga Health LHN received \$54.4 million in Commonwealth Activity Based Funding (ABF) for public hospital services in 2019-20. This is an increase of \$32.7 million, or 151 per cent, since 2012-13 (\$21.7 million). From 2012-13 to 2019-20 the Activity Based Funding from the Victoria Government to the LHN increased from \$24.2 million to \$73.2 million, an increase of \$49.0 million, or 203 per cent.

*Albury Wodonga Health LHN Funding 2012-13 to 2019-20*

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Commonwealth Government - Activity Based Funding	21.7	26.7	28.7	32.9	37.1	39.1	39.5	54.4
State Government - Activity Based Funding	24.2	51.6	53.5	60.5	62.5	64.0	84.0	73.2
Block Funding	22.3	17.2	19.3	21.0	22.7	24.8	25.3	27.9
<b>TOTAL National Health Reform (NHR) Funding</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>114.4</b>	<b>122.3</b>	<b>127.8</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>155.5</b>

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

**Meeting Brief**  
**MB21-000550**  
**Version (1)**  
**Date sent to MO: 19/02/21**

**To: Minister Hunt**

**Adviser:** s22

**Subject: MEETING BRIEF: MEETING WITH THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP RE ALBURY HOSPITAL**

<b>Minister Hunt</b>			
Signed .....		Date:     /     /	
<b>Comments:</b>			
Contact Officer:	s22	Director, Public Hospitals Section, National Health Reform Branch	Ph: (02) 6289 s22 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	Fifine Cahill	Assistant Secretary, National Health Reform Branch, Portfolio Strategies Division	Ph: (02) 6289 s22 Mobile: s22

**Date / Time: Monday, 22 February 2021 – 19:45 to 20:00**

**Meeting Type/Location: Parliament House, M1.41**

**Traditional Custodians: Ngunnawal People**

**Purpose: To discuss Albury-Wodonga region health services and health infrastructure needs, including opportunities through the Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal**

**Desired Outcomes: To discuss the local and longer-term health needs in Albury-Wodonga**

Key Attendee	Title:	Organisation:	Mobile No:
The Hon Sussan Ley MP	Minister for the Environment	Liberal Party Member for Farrer	

**Key Matters:**

The Government is making a significant investment in the Albury-Wodonga region to support state government public health and hospitals system services for the local community.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, which administers the Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal, has advised that early feasibility studies on a number of potential opportunities, including in health, are being considered through the Australian Government's initial \$3.2 million investment, with a final Deal expected to be announced in mid-2021.

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**OFFICIAL****Discussion Guide:****Key Points:**

- Through the National Health Reform Agreement, Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) and Albury New South Wales (NSW) Local Health District received a combined \$100.1 million in Australian Government Activity Based Funding for public hospital services in 2019–20.
  - This is an increase of \$78.4 million, or 362 per cent, since 2012–13 (\$21.7 million).
- In 2019–20, the Government also made a combined block funded contribution of \$17.3 million to Albury Wodonga Health and Albury NSW Local Health District for services as teaching, training and research.
- Through the \$1.25 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program and other 2019-20 Budget measures, the Australian Government is investing in projects and services in every state and territory that support patient care while reducing pressure on community and hospital services.
  - Of this funding, Victoria is receiving close to \$420 million and NSW over \$409 million towards priority projects identified for those states.
  - The Victorian Government will receive \$14.5 million for the AWH Wodonga Hospital Campus to develop a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and deliver an expanded range of consulting clinical suites at Wodonga Hospital.
- I note that as part of the AWH's 2019–20 Statement of Priorities Agreement with the Victorian Government, a master plan is being developed to upgrade the Albury and Wodonga Hospitals and commencement of the Albury Emergency Department redevelopment project.
- Responsibility for planning and funding health infrastructure in the Albury-Wodonga region, for example making decisions on the potential for a Public Private Partnership, rests with the Victorian and NSW Governments.
- I have written to Minister Marino advising that health elements of the Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal should leverage and complement a number of existing Australian Government investments and initiatives in the region.

**Sensitivities or Contentious Issues:**

- In early 2021, Minister Ley also met with the Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Marino MP, to discuss the Deal and opportunities for investment in the healthcare sector in Victoria.
- The Department understands that the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is now focussing on targeted areas of possible assistance rather than supporting a large scale infrastructure redevelopment of the AWH.

**Attachments:** (A) Letter to Minister Hunt from Assistant Minister Marino  
 (B) Minister Hunt letter to Assistant Minister Marino

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**OFFICIAL****Background:***Albury-Wodonga Regional Deal*

- On 9 July 2020, following negotiations with the NSW Government, Victorian Government, Albury City and City of Wodonga, the Albury Wodonga Regional Deal Statement was signed, to support economic development and improved liveability over the next decade.
- Education and Health is a key priority, with the Statement seeking opportunities to improve and deliver quality, integrated health facilities and services that attract high quality health and education professionals.
- Through the Regional Deal, the Australian Government could seek to negotiate with the states for them to also lead a major initiative to develop a 'Health Hub', including potentially a new consolidated Albury-Wodonga Hospital, as part of the long-term investment in the deal by the NSW and Victorian Governments.

*National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) & Albury-Wodonga Health (AWH)*

- The NHRA recognises that state and territory governments are the system managers of their public hospital systems, responsible for the day-to-day operations and performance of their public hospitals and for planning and funding capital.
- AWH is Australia's only cross-border public health service and operates under an agreement between the NSW and Victorian Governments. AWH provides health services to more than 250,000 people. The Government's public hospital funding for AWH is provided through two Local Hospital Networks: Albury Wodonga Health (in respect of Victoria) and Albury NSW Local Health District (in respect of NSW).
- AWH is a 337 bed health service that treated over 61,000 emergency presentations, more than 40,000 inpatients, and delivered 1650 babies in the last 12 months. Services are provided from 17 sites. There are 30 sub-acute beds, 95 mental health beds, five intensive care beds, seven operating theatres, and 117 general beds. The Victorian Minister for Health and Aged Care has confirmed AWH as one of nine Victorian COVID-19 hospital vaccination hubs.

*Community Health & Hospitals Program*

- The Albury Wodonga Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit project will support the transition from inpatient care to the community, and provide an alternative to acute inpatient and emergency department admission, as well as significantly improving the transition of mental healthcare between acute and community services.
- Funding for this project was due to commence in 2022-23, however, the Australian Government is bringing forward funding over three years from 2020-21 in response to the significant impacts of the bushfire emergency in the Albury Wodonga region in early 2020.
- The National Partnership for Streamlined Agreements between the Commonwealth and the state of Victoria for the CHHP and other initiatives, which includes funding for the Wodonga Hospital, was executed on 31 January 2021.

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Minister	<b>Minister Hunt</b>
PDR Number	<b>MB21-000550</b>
Subject	Meeting with the Hon Sussan Ley MP re Albury Hospital
Due Date	19 February 2021
Quality Assurance Check (completed by line area)	s22 [REDACTED]
Contact Officer	s22 [REDACTED]
Clearance Officer	Fifine Cahill (02) 6289 s22 [REDACTED] s22 [REDACTED]
Division/Branch	Portfolio Strategies Division

**Adviser/DLO Comments:**

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## The Hon Nola Marino MP

Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories  
Federal Member for Forrest

Ref: MS20-001176

The Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health  
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service and Cabinet  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

The Australian Government is negotiating a Regional Deal in Albury Wodonga with the New South Wales government, Victorian government, Albury City and City of Wodonga. The Deal will ensure the region prospers over the next decade by supporting economic development and improved liveability. As the first cross-border Deal, the Australian Government is also working with all levels of government to reduce regulatory barriers and streamline cross-border service delivery. I write to invite you to collaborate with the Deputy Prime Minister and myself on this important initiative.

On 10 July 2020, the Deal's Statement of Intent was signed by all three levels of government. The statement outlined six key priority areas for the Deal – economic development, harmonisation, infrastructure and connectivity, liveability, education and health, and supporting the indigenous community. I have enclosed a copy of the statement of intent for your information.

The next stage will identify project opportunities in each of these priority areas. To assist in this process, community reference groups and working groups comprised of leaders and officials from all levels of government have been established. The Australian Government will also be providing funding for feasibility studies and business cases to test project proposals over the coming months.

The Deal is an opportunity to leverage Australian Government strategic priorities and develop an integrated whole-of-government approach to the region. I therefore invite you or your Department to bring forward any project proposals or ideas for consideration as part of the Deal.

I also ask you to provide details of any existing investments and initiatives in the region from your portfolio that could be included in the Deal. Ideally new project proposals will leverage and complement existing Australian Government investments to enhance their impact.

I would appreciate if you could provide your advice to my office by 18 September 2020.

The Hon Nola Marino MP

Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 4293 | [minister.marino@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:minister.marino@infrastructure.gov.au)  
PO Box 2028 BUNBURY WA 6231

We will be seeking to finalise the Deal in mid-2021 for implementation over the coming years.

To discuss the Albury Wodonga Regional Deal further, please contact Mr Sam Shirley from my office or Mr Adam Stankevicius, A/g First Assistant Secretary, from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications on 02 6274 6062.

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely



Nola Marino

Enc

cc The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP

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**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the**  
**Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MC20-037103

The Hon Nola Marino MP  
 Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories  
 Member for Forrest  
 PO Box 2028  
 BUNBURY WA 6231

30 SEP 2020

Dear Assistant Minister

I refer to your letter of 3 September 2020 concerning a Regional Deal in Albury Wodonga, to ensure the region prospers with minimal cross-border complications.

I note in the Deal's Statement of Intent the key priority area of Quality Regional Education and Health and welcome the invitation to identify project opportunities. The focus of this key priority area is to explore opportunities to improve and deliver quality, integrated health facilities and services that attract high quality health and education professionals to the region to meet the demands and challenges of a growing and ageing population. This focus should leverage and complement the following existing Australian Government investments and initiatives in the region from my portfolio:

- The Government is providing \$14.5 million to the Albury Wodonga Health, Wodonga Hospital Campus over three years from 2020–21:
  - \$12 million to support the development of a new 20 bed Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit
  - \$2.5 million to support specialist clinics at the Wodonga Hospital site.
- The Government provides ongoing training programs aimed at increasing accessibility of health services in rural and remote areas:
  - The Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program is designed to encourage the recruitment and retention of rural and remote health professionals, including through providing effective rural training experiences for health students - medical, nursing and allied health students
  - The Murray-Darling Medical Schools Network is providing funding of \$74.4 million from 2018–19 to 2021–22 to establish five rurally based medical school programs in the Murray-Darling region of New South Wales and Victoria
  - The Australian General Practice Training program provides vocational training for medical graduates wishing to specialise in general practice
  - The Specialist Training Program (STP) provides Commonwealth supported training placements for non-GP specialist registrars, with vocational training for participants in regional, rural, and remote locations.

- In 2019, the Government funded 4.35 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) places under the STP in Albury Wodonga as follows:
  - 2.35 FTE in Anaesthesia, Community Child Health, Dermatology and Emergency Medicine positions in Albury
  - 2 FTE in Medical Administration and Obstetrics and gynaecology in Wodonga.

To discuss these health workforce training investments and future opportunities for the Regional Deal, please contact Mr Martin Rocks, Assistant Secretary, Health Training Branch, Health Workforce Division on (02) 6289 s22 or by email at s22 @health.gov.au.

As you may be aware, the Government supports Primary Health Networks (PHN) to work to reorient and reform the primary health care system by taking a patient-centred approach to medical services in their regions. One of PHNs' key roles is to work collaboratively to integrate health services at the local level to create a better experience for patients, encourage better use of health resources, and eliminate service duplication.

I understand Murray PHN, which covers the Albury Wodonga region, has been consulted and engaged on the sidelines throughout this process, by various members of the deal's Health and Social Services Reference Group. The Murray PHN has implemented a number of projects and activities to address cross-border access issues and barriers and variations to healthcare. For example:

- a preventable hospitalisation project across Albury Wodonga
- an established and commissioned chronic disease model of care focussed on diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cardiovascular disease
- commissioned a stepped model of mental health care across the region.

As system integrators and commissioners of health services, PHNs are well placed to understand the health needs and service gaps within their regions. I encourage your departmental officials to continue working with Murray PHN to discuss opportunities for collaboration particularly around the delivery of quality, integrated health services in the region. Murray PHN can be contacted on (03) 5441 7806 or by email at: [info@murrayphn.org.au](mailto:info@murrayphn.org.au).

I look forward to collaborating with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP and yourself on this important initiative.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt



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Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Meeting Brief

MB22-002349

Version (1)

Date sent to MO: 2/08/2022

To: Minister Butler

Subject: MEETING BRIEF: ALBURY WODONGA HEALTH, EATING DISORDERS, AGED CARE

Comments:

Contact Officer:	<i>Fifine Cahill</i>	<i>Assistant Secretary, National Health Reform Branch, Portfolio Strategies Division</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 s22 Mobile: s22
Clearance Officer:	<i>Paul McBride</i>	<i>Deputy Secretary, Strategic Evidence &amp; Research Group</i>	Ph: (02) 6289 s22 Mobile: s22

**Date / Time:** Thursday, 4 August 2022 / 10:00am-10:30am**Meeting Type/Location:** Australian Parliament House.**Traditional Custodians:** Ngunnawal People**Purpose:** To discuss Dr Helen Haines MP's concerns for health and aged care in Indi.**Desired Outcomes:** To better understand local health and aged care issues in the Albury-Wodonga region and to communicate the Government's portfolio priorities.

Key Attendees/Speakers:	Organisation:	Mobile No:
Dr Helen Haines MP	Independent Member for Indi	

**Key Matters/Issues:***Albury Wodonga Health and the need for a new hospital in the North East Victorian Region*

- The Government's public hospital funding for Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) is provided through two Local Hospital Networks: Albury Wodonga Health (in respect of Victoria) and Albury NSW Local Health District (in respect of NSW). The two AWH LHNs received a combined \$124 million in Australian Government funding contribution towards the costs of public hospital services in 2021-22.
- The AWH Clinical Services Plan, released on 21 April 2021, recommends a major referral hospital be constructed in the region over the next twenty years to deliver contemporary regional healthcare, reduce service duplication, and to co-locate scarce specialist resources. A site for this hospital has not been proposed – and any decisions on the need for a major referral hospital remains with the respective jurisdictions.

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- The department understands that, following a review by the Victorian and NSW Governments, AWH is undertaking further work on its long-term draft Master Plan to determine the infrastructure required to meet its Clinical Services Plan on the future needs of the cross-border community.
- The department has not been involved in the development of these plans.

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Minister	Minister Butler
PDR Number	MB22-002349
Subject	<b>**URGENT Two Day Turnaround** Meeting Brief: Albury Wodonga Health, Eating Disorders, Aged Care</b>
Contact Officer	Fifine Cahill (02) 6289 s22 s22
Clearance Officer	Paul McBride (02) 6289 s22 s22
Division/Branch	Strategy Evidence & Research   Portfolio Strategies

Adviser/DLO comments:	Returned to Dept for: REDRAFT <input type="checkbox"/> NFA <input type="checkbox"/>
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# MINISTERIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

MB19-003736

Date Sent to MO:05/09/2019

**MINISTER:** Greg Hunt

**Issue:** Funding Commitment to Albury Wodonga Health  
(Senator Bridget McKenzie)

## Response:

Through the Supporting our Hospitals – Additional Infrastructure and Services measure, the Australian Government allocated \$14.5 million over three years from 2022-23 to support the development of a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and specialist clinics which will deliver expanded specialist services and safe, high quality care at Wodonga Hospital.

The funding profile for this activity is detailed below:

Description	2022-23 \$ (m)	2023-24 \$ (m)	2024-25 \$ (m)	Total \$ (m)
Wodonga Hospital	5.000	5.000	4.500	14.500

This funding will be provided through an agreement with the Victorian Government. The Department of Health has offered this draft agreement for negotiation and discussion with Victorian Health officials.

**Minister** Greg Hunt

**PDR Number** MB19-003736

**Issue** MIR - Funding Commitment to Albury Wodonga Health  
(Senator Bridget McKenzie)

**Contact Officer** Ffine Cahill  
6289 s22  
s22

**Clearance Officer** Tania Rishniw  
6289 s22  
s22

**Division/Branch** Portfolio Strategies

**Adviser/DLO Comments:**

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

**Ministerial Information Request****MB21-002841****Version (1)****Date sent to MO:05/08/21****To: Minister Hunt****Subject: Albury Wodonga Health Services****Response:****Overview**

- Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) is Australia's only cross-border public health service and operates under an agreement between the New South Wales (NSW) and Victorian Governments.
- The Australian Government provides funding and support for the AWH and for specific health services in the Albury Wodonga region more generally through several programs, including public hospitals, Medicare benefits, community health infrastructure, Primary Health Networks, and health workforce assistance.
- An estimated \$329 million of health spending in 2019–20 is attributable to Commonwealth health programs in Albury Wodonga and the surrounding areas.
- The Government announced a pilot Regional Deal for Albury Wodonga on 20 March 2019, overseen by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC). The DITRDC, working with the Department of Health, is developing a proposal under this Regional Deal to establish a framework for better coordinated health services in the region that will involve Commonwealth, state government, local government, and private healthcare providers.
- The Department is not aware of any current issues with cross border funding between the NSW and Victorian Governments in relation to AWH.

**Public Hospitals and the National Health Reform Agreement**

- The Government's public hospital funding for AWH is provided through two Local Hospital Networks: Albury Wodonga Health (in respect of Victoria) and Albury NSW Local Health District (in respect of NSW). AWH operates under the jurisdiction of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

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- Albury Wodonga Health and Albury NSW Local Health District received a combined \$77.9 million in Australian Government Activity Based Funding for public hospital services in 2020–21. This is an increase of \$56.2 million since 2012–13 (\$21.7 million).
- Albury Wodonga Health received a combined \$103.0 million in Victorian and New South Wales Government Activity Based Funding through the National Health Funding Pool for public hospital services in 2020–21. This is an increase of \$78.8 million since 2012–13 (\$24.2 million).

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**Community Health and Hospitals Program**

- Through the \$1.25 billion Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) and other 2019–20 Budget measures, the Government is investing in projects and services in every state and territory that support patient care while reducing pressure on community health and hospital services.
- As part of CHHP, the Victorian Government will receive \$14.5 million for the Albury Wodonga Health Wodonga Hospital Campus to develop a Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit and deliver an expanded range of consulting clinical suites at Wodonga Hospital.
- CHHP also includes funding for the Wodonga Hospital, with an agreement executed on 31 January 2021 and payment of \$2.5 million made in May 2021. The payment schedule for the remaining \$12 million for Wodonga Hospital will be made following receipt of their progress reports, with expected payment dates of 1 September 2021 (\$6 million) and 1 September 2022 (\$6 million).

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<b>Minister</b>	<b>Minister Hunt</b>
<b>PDR Number</b>	<b>MB21-002841</b>
<b>Subject</b>	MIR: Albury -Wodonga Health Services
<b>Due Date</b>	<b>05 August 2021</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Check (completed by line area)</b>	s22
<b>Contact Officer</b>	s22 02 6289 s22 s22
<b>Clearance Officer</b>	s22 02 6289 s22
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Strategic Evidence & Research   Portfolio Strategies

**Adviser/DLO Comments:**Return to  
Dept for:Redraft ☐**OFFICIAL**