



24 February 2009

Mr Ben McGibbon
Murlan Consulting Pty Ltd
Suite 110, Jones Bay Wharf
26 Pirrama Road.
Pyrmont NSW 2009

Dear Mr McGibbon

Re – 1-8 Nield Avenue, Greenwich – proposed private hospital – SEPP Major Project Application
No. MP 07_0167

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the NSW Health letter of 9 December 2009.

Firstly, please note that The Essence Consulting Group has not provided any advice regarding the funding sources which will be utilised by the Nield Ave Hospital. Thus, we have not stated whether the high care places in the hospital will be Commonwealth funded or not.

With regard to the dementia specific places Essence has reported accurately the shortage of secure dementia places. The provision of additional dementia specific care on the North Shore will increase the availability of places and thus provide additional opportunity to access care.

The Essence Consulting Group has advised that there is a catchment of older people who would be likely to access the services of the Nield Ave Hospital (in our March 2007 Supply and Demand Study). Since the catchment studied very closely equates with the catchment of Royal North Shore Hospital then it is reasonable to suggest that the persons residing in the Nield Ave catchment are the same people who are provided for within the Royal North Shore catchment and not an increase in numbers.

Regarding referrals from aged care services to emergency departments our earlier letter was referring to the fact that older people are true admissions to emergency departments. Their need for acute care and perhaps hospitalisation sees them only accessing health services for a true emergency. Older people are less likely to attend emergency departments for minor ailments or frivolous matters. The heart of the matter is this: The proposed patients of Nield Ave are already residing in the catchment of Royal North Shore Hospital. Their requirements for emergency services are in response to their health need not their place of residence.

In conclusion, it remains the consultant's opinion that the development of a private hospital at Nield Ave Greenwich will not significantly affect the services provided by Royal North Shore Hospital.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further advice.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Kramer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Theresa Kramer
Director
Email: theresa@essencegroup.com.au