

12 December 2019

Megan Fu
Principal Planner
Social Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Dear Ms Fu

RE: AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT OF GREENWICH HOSPITAL (CONCEPT)

Dementia Australia (formerly known as Alzheimer's Australia) is the peak, non-profit organisation for people of all ages, living with all forms of dementia, their families and carers. We represent the more than 447,000 Australians living with dementia and the estimated 1.5 million Australians involved in their care. Dementia Australia works with individuals, families, communities, all levels of government, and other key stakeholders to ensure that people with dementia, their families and carers are appropriately supported – at work, at home (including residential aged care) or in their local community.

Dementia is one of the largest health and social challenges facing Australia and the world. Dementia is a terminal condition and there is currently no cure. It is the leading cause of death of women in Australia, the second leading cause of death in this country and it is predicted to become the leading cause of death within the next five years.

Given these statistics and our history of partnering with HammondCare on initiatives that improve the care and support of people living with dementia, Dementia Australia is pleased to support the Amended Redevelopment of Greenwich Hospital Concept Plan now before the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for public exhibition. Greenwich Hospital's role for those living with dementia and those caring for them will be enhanced through this redevelopment.

Pallister House, located on the Greenwich Hospital site is home to HammondCare's Dementia Centre, a provider of research and expertise to the aged and dementia care community in Australia and internationally. As part of the 150-bed health care facility proposed in the Greenwich Hospital redevelopment, we note there will be residential aged care beds provided in a purpose-built environment especially designed for people living with dementia.

Internationally-recognised dementia-design principles will inform the design with a focus on creating non-institutional, homelike environments that provide opportunities for residents to continue to participate in the rhythms and routines of everyday life. We also note that, under the amended concept, the heritage value of Pallister House will be protected by preservation of its garden curtilage and view through from River Road.

The proximity of the dementia care to inpatient rehabilitation and palliative care services will allow for greater cross-service expertise sharing and service provision, helping to reduce the rate of unnecessary transition to hospital.

We understand that the amended concept proposal is the result of a long process of consultation with the community. The amendments have reduced bulk and scale of the seniors' living accommodation, introduced a respite centre and protected the tree canopy. They improve the initial concept proposal for Greenwich Hospital submitted to the Department earlier this year.

We join HammondCare in urging the Department to consider the community's general need for increased health services for older Australians when considering the Amended Redevelopment of Greenwich Hospital Concept plan.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Boffa
Acting CEO
Dementia Australia