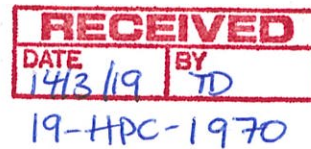


MHW-H19-0243



Government
of South Australia

Hon Stephen Wade MLC
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Mr Steve Tully
Chairperson
Health Performance Council
PO Box 3246
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr Tully

Thank you for your letter dated 17 January 2019, regarding the Health Performance Council's (HPC) post-implementation review of Country Health SA Local Health Network's (Country Health) Aboriginal Community and Consumer Engagement Strategy 2015 (ACCE Strategy).

The Marshall Liberal Government is committed to working in partnership with all regional LHNs and all Aboriginal stakeholders to enable access to safe, timely and culturally responsive health care.

I note the number of initiatives and outcomes of the ACCE Strategy that have proven to be beneficial, including the creation of the Experts By Experience Register, and that there is more active participation and engagement by Aboriginal people with the health system throughout Country Health locations.

I acknowledge that there are important lessons to be learnt arising out of your report, such as the desirability for improved monitoring and evaluation of Aboriginal policies and programs to ensure effectiveness.

Country Health have acknowledged its shortcomings while remaining steadfast in its commitment to reforming the delivery of the ACCE Strategy and cultural competency more generally.

Country Health has already taken a number of positive steps to implement many of HPC's recommendations, including embedded the ACCE as an addendum to Country Health's overarching Consumer and Community Engagement Strategy and reforming its Experts By Experience program to increase engagement opportunities.

I am confident that your findings will inform and guide the regional Local Health Networks (LHN) in the co-design and implementation of their regulatory community and consumer engagement plans, enabling collaboration from

Aboriginal stakeholders in shaping the decision making processes that impact on their daily lives.

Thank you for your report, and for the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Wade
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

7 March 2019

cc: Ms Rebecca Graham, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Country Health