

21 December 2011

Mr. Grahame Hackett
Chair Southern Highlands Cancer Leadership Committee
10 Carisbrooke Row
Bowral NSW 2576

Dear Mr. Hackett,

RE: Clinical Trial Funding in South Western Sydney Local Health District

Thank you for letter dated 15 December 2011. We share your commitment to high quality activity in cancer trials in NSW and as such have significantly invested in the NSW Cancer Trials Network, \$40M since conception. This is unique in Australia in terms of size of investment, the number of staff supported and geographical location.

Historically our funding for clinical trials infrastructure was a co-funding arrangement with the Cancer Council NSW. This year the Cancer Council NSW has made the decision not to continue with its co-funding with the Cancer Institute NSW. Our funding commitment for clinical trials has in fact increased by 8.5%, although overall there has been a reduction in the total number of funded positions across the State. As a result, the fairest option we determined was to share these reductions across the State.

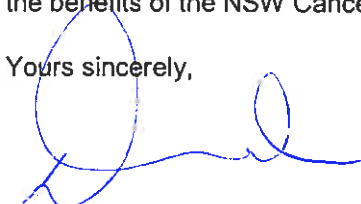
We appreciate the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) may be disappointed with the news and reduction. However, the reduction in funds was beyond the control of the Cancer Institute NSW.

The reduction of funds for SWSLHD is not in any way reflective of poor performance rather we had to make the decision on how to equitably share the amount available across all LHDs. I'm afraid I am not in the position to reconsider the funding allocated to SWSLHD because all funds have been awarded across the State.

SWSLHD is now in receipt of funding for 4 FTEs, with responsibility for allocation of funds and resource in a manner which meets the clinical trials needs of each the individual institutions within that LHD. Please be aware that each LHD remains supported through the Network Support Office, funded through the Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Trials Network Support Grants.

We look forward to working with you, clinicians and clinical trials staff in SWSLHD to fully realise the benefits of the NSW Cancer Trials Network.

Yours sincerely,



PROFESSOR DAVID CURROW
CHIEF CANCER OFFICER AND CEO
CANCER INSTITUTE NSW

Cc. Dr. Andrew Penman, CEO, Cancer Council NSW
Prof. Geoff Delaney, Director of Cancer Services, SWSLHD