



Hon. Jay Weatherill MP
Office of the Premier
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Received:	16/9/14
Physical ID:	PREM1404854
File No:	PREM14/0049
Action Officer:	M.H. - Direct
Draft Date:	
Previous Count:	

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9th September 2014

Dear Premier

As the Presiding Member of the Kangaroo Island Health Advisory Council (KI HAC) I am conveying the unanimous decision of the KI HAC to maintain this council, notwithstanding your intention to abolish all Boards, Committees and Advisory Councils as recently detailed. We emphatically oppose the dissolution of the KI HAC.

The KI HAC is a vibrant, professional and cohesive group of individuals, with a broad age range reflective of the community we serve, that is passionate about the ongoing delivery and improvement of exceptional health care to the population of Kangaroo Island.

As a designated remote area and an island we believe the KI HAC delivers, on behalf of the Minister responsible, an effective mechanism for community engagement. We value what services are provided by government, the private sector (local General Practice and Pharmacy) and through the committed work of volunteers in the provision of health and see the KI HAC as the most effective and efficient way of strategically linking all of those entities. We strongly adhere to the view of local decision making at the local level.

Our principal concerns are:

- That upon abolition the community will have no say with regard to health matters for the Island. Why would any other engagement model not be at similar costs to the HAC?
- If cost savings are the key driver we know the KI HAC costs very little. No sitting fees and minimal meeting costs etc.
- What is the intention of the Premier regarding HAC Bank Accounts and HAC assets (all buildings currently managed)?
- That upon abolition the one community voice on the Island in the wider health bureaucracy will be lost.
- With the intent of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island Bill (now passing through Parliaments various stages) to have the capacity for a local Advisory Council, will the old/new KI HAC go through a passage of turmoil for no good reason and in doing so lose members that it cannot replace?
- A HAC provides the local face for health. As we have demonstrated here on the Island the community is more likely to engage with a local health representative than an otherwise identified health bureaucrat from the mainland.

- Given the current focus by the Federal Government for improving community engagement, how will abolishing HAC's enable Country Health SA to effectively engage with the community

Suggested improvements in going forward:

- Change the current \$5K spending limit. Whilst we understand it forms part of the State's bottom line and in addition spending has to be appropriate to demonstrated need, the KI HAC believe the local EO/DON and Regional Director ought to be able to approve to \$50k.
- Clear guidelines for Conflict of Interest matters. Potentially given the KI HAC meets to discuss strategy and health benefit to the community, each and every one of us could leave the room given 'interpretation' of current information on this matter at any one time.
- One size does not fit all and if the intent is to have regional HAC's, given past and current experiences Kangaroo Island's fortunes, services and people are generally only regarded as important by those living here (notwithstanding your governments initiatives the intention behind the Kangaroo Island Futures Authority and a Commissioner).
- The opportunity to improve is always on our agenda and any feedback on how we can do that appreciated.
- Whilst we have seen too many past examples of poor amalgamation, ie RDA where the local community has lost their voice and local services have deteriorated significantly, we are open to collaboration (not amalgamation) as an option where HAC's are working on areas of commonality.

The KI HAC has significant runs on the board:

- It thinks strategically.
- It knows it is fortunate to have such healthcare facilities and staffing according to need.
- It judiciously utilises the interest earned from its financial accounts for the benefit of the health services consumers (improving amenity), the community (grants) and employees (scholarships).
- It recognises the constraints on the overall health care system and works in collaboration with your officers to obtain and sustain appropriate services.
- It communicates with its community (e.g. via enclosed the multi-disciplinary Kangaroo Island Healthy Business News).
- It values a public service and the support, education and training that occurs to 'grow our own' (employees).
- The age range of the group is from 17 to 80, is gender balanced and has a 90% attendance rate.
- It has raised funds from Island people for the benefit of this community.

In conclusion the KI HAC requests consideration that it remain as is or, in the event of a Commissioner for KI, continue on with no disruption to its collaboration with the health service or control of financial and physical assets.

We remain an instrument of the Minister but we also remain as taxpayers and guardians of affordable, accountable and achievable health care in a remote environment.

Your time and consideration is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Dohle', written in a cursive style.

Lyn Dohle

Presiding Member

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Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia

Ms Lyn Dohle
Presiding Member
Kangaroo Island Health Advisory Council
Kangaroo Island Health Service Esplanade
KINGSCOTE SA 5223

Dear Ms Dohle

Thank you for your letter of 9 September 2014 to the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP, about the Boards and Committees reform.

Your letter has been sent to the Minister for Health, the Hon Jack Snelling MP, as he has been asked to provide advice to Cabinet on the future of your board or committee.

Should you have any queries about your letter, please contact the Minister's office on telephone 8463 6270.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Fowler".

**Premier's Correspondence Unit
Office of the Premier**

16 September 2014

cc: Office of the Hon Jack Snelling MP, Minister for Health