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**Government
of South Australia**

The Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial
Hospital Health Advisory Council Inc.

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18 September 2014

Hon. Jack Snelling MP
Minister for Health
GPO Box 2555
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

The Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Health Advisory Council (HAC) acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 8 July 2014 regarding reform of South Australian Government Boards and Committees.

We understand the Premier's desire to achieve reform in this area and appreciate the questions raised in his letter.

The Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Health Advisory Council have reviewed your correspondence at their recent meeting and we wish to put forward the following:

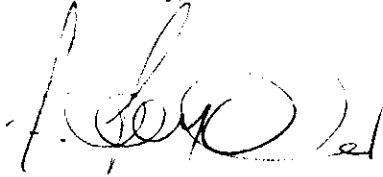
- The Murray Bridge Health Advisory Council have a very strong engagement with the community and the focus to achieve meaningful outcomes to assist the people it represents.
- The Murray Bridge Health Advisory Council feel that they are a strong conduit between the local community and the health service.
- The Murray Bridge Health Advisory Council undertook a pivotal role in leading and analyzing the community and stakeholder feedback and provided oversight of the local planning process for the 10 year local health service plan.
- As an 'incorporated' HAC, the Murray Bridge Health Advisory Council are custodians of the land and assets for the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital which is important for the community to have managed in a local and appropriate manner.
- A recent collaboration framework has been developed between the Riverland Mallee Coorong Region's Health Advisory Councils to which we would like to see run its course.
- The Murray Bridge Health Advisory Council has established good relationships with other Health Advisory Council's within the Riverland Mallee Coorong Region and supports the current structure as it stands. There are regular scheduled meetings between the Presiding Members and they regularly converse via telephone and email.
- The Murray Bridge Health Advisory Council membership is represented by a diverse and dedicated cross section of the community. This gives the HAC great depth and helps to represent a broader cross section of the community. Most people within the community personally know someone who is on the Health Advisory Council thus enabling direct communication between the HAC and the community – a key feature that would be lost without a stand-alone Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Health Advisory Council.
- The Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Health Advisory Council members willingly '**volunteer**' their time and expertise representing the community so we do not concur that the abolishment of the Health Advisory Councils would be more cost effective or result in improved efficiencies.

- It is strongly felt that hospitals with the Region have different strengths and areas of focus, not to mention the geographic separation that would not be well served by amalgamations.

We thank you for the opportunity to review our structure and the way that we operate as it allows us the opportunity to review, learn and improve our functionality.

In our opinion, we do not feel that there will be any benefits to any sort of amalgamation and we wish to continue to exist, improve and serve our community in our role as a separate entity.

Yours sincerely,



Fred Toogood
Presiding Member
Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Health Advisory Council

- cc. Mr Peter Blacker, Presiding Member, CHSALHN Advisory Council (Governing Council)
Ms Maree Geraghty, Chief Executive Officer, CHSALHN
Mr Adrian Pederick, Member for Hammond
Mr Wayne Champion, Regional Director, Riverland Mallee Coorong Rural Region, CHSALHN