

South Australian Government Negotiations regarding Private Hospital Arrangements

Date: 4 April 2020
To: All SA Private Hospitals - All Staff and VMOs
From: Martin Bowles, National CEO

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing rapidly. Reports of increased instances of community transmission, in South Australia, and other States and Territories, will mean that Australia's health system will need to be ready with the capacity to act on a significant increase in acute demand.

As you know, on 31 March 2020, the Commonwealth Government announced that it will guarantee support for Australia's private hospital sector to remain viable in the interests of supporting the national COVID-19 response.

Following this announcement, Calvary has been working in close communication with relevant States, Territories and jurisdictional authorities, including the South Australian Government, to form and solidify these agreements.

Discussions with the SA Government continue. Let me be clear that while we do not have an agreement between Calvary and the South Australian Government at this point in time, I can assure you that we are committed to finalising the agreement as a matter of urgency.

Calvary, our staff and VMOs have a demonstrated capacity to contribute to the effective management of COVID-19 in South Australia. We hold a key place in the SA health system. We are working to provide the certainty we understand is necessary for our staff and VMOs in this uncertain time.

Calvary has been caring for South Australians since 1900 and we will continue to do so in this challenging and uncertain time of COVID-19 pandemic. Calvary Adelaide Hospital, Calvary North Adelaide, and Calvary Central Districts, all have the capacity to assist the SA health system as required.

Following the recent commissioning of the new Calvary Adelaide Hospital, Calvary has the capacity to make an additional 94 beds available.

We expect an agreement to be reached with the SA Government in the coming days. You will be kept informed of any further developments as news becomes available.

To date, the response of staff to changing requirements has been excellent. I thank you for your continued flexibility in accommodating this uncertainty. Our patients and their family members rely on us for the continuity of care we provide. I commend our South Australian staff and VMOs for your commitment to this care.

If for whatever reason you are finding this uncertain time distressing, please discuss your concerns with your Manager in the first instance. For additional support, please make contact with your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider at:

<http://connect.calvarycare.org.au/EmployeeEssentials/Conditions/pages/Employee-assistance-program.aspx>



For up-to-date information for all staff and VMOs, check in to Calvary's COVID-19 Information and Resources site for Staff regularly: www.calvarystaffupdates.org.au

Thank you for all that you do in the interest of caring for the most vulnerable South Australians.

Martin Bowles
National CEO