[Date]

Dear [First and last name of your local MP],

I am writing to you as a member of your electorate about the recent decision regarding the location for the new Women and Babies Hospital.

The initial consultations about the hospital saw agreement that the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) site was the best option for the new hospital, due to its proximity to the Perth Children's Hospital, its central location servicing the community both north and south of the river, and the clinical expertise on the site for extremely pre-term babies requiring surgery immediately post birth.

In April, the Minister for Health announced the new hospital would be built on the site of Fiona Stanley Hospital, not the QEII site. As [a health consumer / a health advocate / a consumer representative / a community member] who has been interested in this issue, and the community discussion that has followed, I write to register my strong reservations about this decision, and in particular the way the decision was made.

Firstly, I am concerned that a major change in the hospital’s location occurred **after** community consultations settled on the QEII site, giving consumers no opportunity to provide feedback. It is extremely disappointing that the consumers who participated in consultations were not informed about the location change, only to learn of it via the media.

Secondly, the decision defies the golden rule of tri-location for health services, where the adult hospital, children’s hospital, and maternity hospital are co-located on the same site. The tri-location principle is applied to healthcare services in all major cities in Australia, as well as internationally.

The decision means that the health and safety of premature or sick babies and their families is severely compromised. There are around 40 babies born each year with complications requiring immediate intervention, and I am unaware of any alternative plans to take care of these incredibly vulnerable babies who cannot be treated at the FSH site, and for whom there would be great risks to travel for surgery elsewhere.

While I understand that there are also risks and issues associated with the QEII location, it is imperative that the question of location is addressed working with the community and all stakeholders, especially consumer representatives with experience, knowledge, and expertise in this matter.

I request that you raise the issue of the lack of meaningful consumer engagement with the Minister for Health and pursue a collaborative solution to the issue of hospital location that will address consumer and clinician concerns, and be in the best interests of our community.

I would be happy to speak with you and provide more information about this issue. The summary of consumer conversations [I was involved in on 20 July] can also be found on the website of the Health Consumers’ Council at <https://www.hconc.org.au/systemicadvocacy/pregnancy-2/>

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your phone number or email address]