



Ms Melissa James
Secretary, ACT Labor
First Floor
222 City Walk
Canberra ACT 2600

17 September 2020

By email: Melissa.james@act.alp.org.au

Dear Ms James

We refer to ACT Labor's election announcement made earlier this week, to establish 5 new 'Nurse-led Walk In Centres' [WICs] to be located in South Tuggeranong, West Belconnen, Inner South, Molonglo and North Gungahlin. In addition, yesterday ACT Labor has announced, in concert with the National Health Co-operative [NHC], that a 'Pilot Healthcare Facility' will be co-located alongside the existing NHC in Coombs, inclusive of a new model of care.

We also refer to an ABC Radio interview with the NHC Chief Executive Officer, Alison Wright, on ABC Radio Breakfast this morning and a media release by the NHC.

From the materials publicly available, it appears that a location has been selected for the new WIC at the NHC at Coombs, rooms are to be leased from the NHC and possibly other facilities and staff utilised. The total commitment by ACT Labor is said to be \$700,000 over the next term of government.

It is foreshadowed that similar models may be used with regard to the other new WICs.

Given these matters, we are concerned that ACT Labor appears to have selectively chosen – and announced - the NHC as the co-located general practice for the new WIC in Molonglo. In fact, from the strength of the joint announcements today, it may be that contracts have been signed. We sincerely trust that this is not the case but ask that you confirm no contracts have been entered into or commercial commitments made with the NHC.

Given these concerns, we acknowledge that if, re-elected, ACT Labor would have a mandate to proceed with the roll-out of the new WICs. Given the potential and significant commercial

benefit accruing to a general practice co-located with a new WIC (including the NHC), we believe a public tender process is warranted to decide the successful general practice. Consequently, we seek your commitment that open, public, and competitive tender processes will be undertaken to decide which general practices will be successful in gaining a co-located new WIC.

For the avoidance of doubt, we also seek your commitment that the new Molonglo WIC will be put out to tender regardless of today's announcements. In our view, to do otherwise excludes other local, general practices from the opportunity and may not produce the optimal outcome from the expenditure of \$700,000 of taxpayer funds.

Further to this, we wish to signal our willingness to work with a re-elected ACT Labor Government to develop accessible and sustainable models for any future WICs.

Given the current election campaign, we would appreciate a reply to our correspondence by COB 18 September 2020.

Yours sincerely



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