



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dear everyone,

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network Board has met to finalise its decision regarding the future provision of paediatric cardiac services. Last week the NSW Paediatric Cardiac Services Model of Care Panel chair, Professor Willis Marshall AC, presented the Board with a comprehensive draft model of care, a detailed literature review and data analysis undertaken by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and the Panel recommendations.

After carefully considering this information, along with the views of individual Panel members and other interested stakeholders, the Board has accepted the model of care and the independent report by RACS. The Board's decision was guided by its commitment to support the Network to deliver high quality, safe care that places the needs of patients and families first, and to deliver what is in the best interest of patients.

At the very centre of the model of care overseen by the Panel is a focus on each individual child we treat and what is best for them. It will be used as the framework to develop the state-wide service and will refocus the way we deliver care with a "one service, one team" approach.

In regard to cardiac surgery, the Board determined that highly complex surgery will continue to only be performed at CHW, less complex cases will be performed at both sites and there is more work to be done on determining patient factors, clinical support and resources for medium complexity cases.

I welcome the Board's decision and its support for the executive, leadership teams and clinicians as we progress this work.

Dr Joanne Ging will lead this work with the support of the new site Directors of Clinical Operations and the involvement of SCHN staff as well as John Hunter Children's Hospital, rural and regional Local Health Districts and patients and families. We will regularly report our progress to the Board.

Following consultation with cardiac services staff, The Heart Centre for Children will be expanded to provide the same level of holistic outpatient care and clinician support at both hospitals.

We will also be progressing key appointments over the coming weeks including a Head of Department, Cardiology at SCH and a Head of Department, Fetal Medicine to enhance support to Royal Hospital for Women and maternity units across NSW. Further recruitment will follow as arrangements are progressed to implement the model of care.

The draft model of care, the RACS report and the final panel recommendations can be accessed [here](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their input and their patience. I acknowledge that it has been a long-standing and challenging issue and there will continue to be discussions regarding the provision of cardiac surgery at SCHN. I would ask that these be done in a collaborative and respectful way with the implementation team to move forward together.

Cathryn

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