

Tuesday the 23rd October 2018

The Hon Jill Hennessy
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Level22
50 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE, Vic, 3000

An Open letter to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

Dear Minister Hennessy,

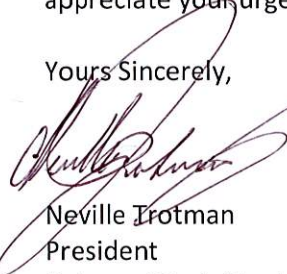
I write on behalf of and with the unanimous support of the Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre Board concern regarding current operational funding arrangements.

We have recently entered into a two year EBA with our nurses for public sector pay parity. We could not afford to enter into a four year agreement due to the significant wages uplift in years three and four of the public sector agreement. Continued employment of our highly qualified nursing staff is essential to ensure safe quality local care delivery in our rural remote area.

Our peak body LASA, with our full consent, has attempted to represent the sector in lobbying DHHS regarding this matter. We seek your intervention to immediately **fully fund the cost of the nurses EBA implementation** across the four years of the agreement. We also seek a commitment to a **cost of care study** that will demonstrate the actual cost of service provision. No action will result in current services to small, vulnerable communities being significantly impacted.

Bush Nursing Centres are currently grappling with critical budget pressures and would appreciate your urgent consideration of this matter.

Yours Sincerely,



Neville Trotman
President
Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre Inc