

Dear [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by Canberra Health Services (CHS) on **Wednesday 26 April 2023**.

This application requested access to:

- *Any discussions or correspondence between the Royal Hospital for Women and Canberra Health Services and/or ACT Health regarding the gynaecology oncology service, provided by the Royal Hospital for Women, which started in March 2023. This request includes any discussions or correspondence which has taken place since November 2022. It also includes any meetings and meeting notes and/or minutes.*
- *Any ministerial briefings about this matter.*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (CHS) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. CHS was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Friday 16 June 2023**.

I have identified 17 documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

Decisions on access

I have decided to:

- grant full access to 5 documents; and
- grant partial access 12 to documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as [Attachment B](#) to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Full Access

I have decided to grant full access to 5 documents at references 6, 11 and 15-17.

Partial Access

I have decided to grant partial access to 12 documents at references 1-5, 7-10 and 12-14 as they contain information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the FOI Act.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1(a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

The redacted information in these documents contain personal information of ACT Government employees and non-ACT Government employees. Therefore, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CHS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

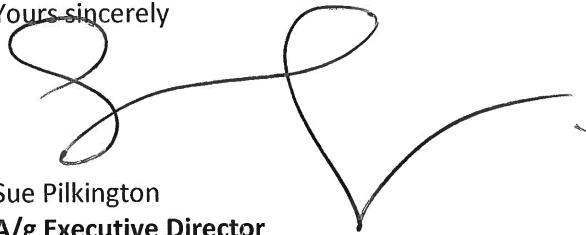
Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the
FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sue Pilkington', written over a horizontal line.

Sue Pilkington
A/g Executive Director
Women, Youth and Children
Canberra Health Services


16 June 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any discussions or correspondence between the Royal Hospital for Women and Canberra Health Services and/or ACT Health regarding the gynaecology oncology service, provided by the Royal Hospital for Women, which started in March 2023. This request includes any discussions or correspondence which has taken place since November 2022. It also includes any meetings and meeting notes and/or minutes. Any ministerial briefings about this matter. 	CHSFOI22-23.56

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1 – 3	Email – Re: Gynae Oncology Service at ACT *Attachment not included – Out of scope	11 January 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy Out of scope	YES
2.	4 – 10	Email – RE: Gynae Oncology Service at ACT	16 January 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy Out of scope	YES
3.	11 – 12	Email – Canberra Health Services – Invitation to submit credentialing profile	20 January 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy Out of scope	YES

4.	13 - 16	Email – RE: Clarifying gynae-oncology consulting pathways for our on call gynaecology registrars. *Attachment included	23 January 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
5.	17 – 19	Email – Gynae Oncology Update	07 February 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
6.	20 – 21	Email – MDAAC Recommendation Letter – A Prof. Ramanand Athavale *Attachment included	23 February 2023	Full Release		YES
7.	22 – 25	Email – Re: ICG endoscope for gynae onc	01 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy Out of scope	YES
8.	26 – 29	Email – Re: Gynae Onc	07 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
9.	30 – 33	Email – RE: Gynae Onc *Attachment not included – Health Records	09 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
10.	34 – 38	Email – RE: Ramanand ATHAVALE_VMO Contract & Payment Details_no GST *Attachment included	14 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
11.	39 – 41	Email – RE: UPDATE POINTS Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday	15 March 2023	Full Release		YES
12.	42 – 46	Email – RE: URGENT ADVICE Gynaecology announcement for Friday	16 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
13.	47 – 48	Media Release – Specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon to start at Canberra Hospital	17 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
14.	49 – 52	Email – Re: Questions re gynaecology oncology clinic	18 March 2023	Partial Release	Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) Privacy	YES
15.	53 – 55	Media Talking Points – Gynaecology oncology support in the ACT	March 2023	Full Release		YES
16.	56 – 57	Amendment	March 2023	Full Release		YES
17.	58 – 59	Talking Points Gynaecology Oncology	March 2023	Full Release		YES

Total Number of Documents

17

Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2023 10:48 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health); Wayne Hsueh (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health); Larkin, Nicole (Health); O'Neill, Cathie (Health)
Subject: Re: Gynae Oncology Service at ACT
Attachments: CV Athavale - 2023 Jan.pdf

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Boon

Thank you for your email - and setting out an initial plan.

I believe that 'site visits' prior to starting clinical activity is essential. This will allow us to organise / set up clinics/ theatres, meet the whole team, colleagues, managers, theatre staff and so on. Also the gyn onc CNC needs to be in the role as without this, we would not be able to start at all.

I would like to see ACT developing into a cancer centre, and may be start a small MDT on Thursday pm. We
 Out of Scope [REDACTED] and may be we can sort out low/intermediate risk
 cancers at the ACT mdt and leave only the big cases for the RHW mdt. Out of Scope [REDACTED]
 Out of Scope [REDACTED]

The ACT drainage is about half a million and looking at the workload that we undertook last year (had some time during Xmas), even a whole day a month of operating at ACT will be a small fraction - unless we think that there may be leaks in the pathway ! As we discussed, we are unable to offer any more time with the current staffing at RHW. But I am hopeful that we will recruit and then be able to work out more long term solutions. I would really like [REDACTED] on board simultaneously, [REDACTED] and we can share the ACT workload equally.

Look forward to our meeting tomorrow..
 (CV attached)

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
 South Eastern Sydney
 Local Health District



From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 17:58
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED] Wayne Hsueh (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>; O'Neill, Cathie (Health) <Cathie.O'Neill@act.gov.au>
Subject: Gynae Oncology Service at ACT

OFFICIAL

Dear Ram and Wayne,

Many thanks for the productive meeting yesterday. Also, we are grateful for your commitment to support the gynaecological oncology service in the ACT. Just to confirm the points we discussed.

1. Ram will be appointed in the first instance as a locum VMO in order to attend Canberra Health Services to carry out an all day list on a Thursday once a month. The next day, you would conduct a post op round, with teaching opportunities, and run an all day clinic before returning to Sydney.
2. [REDACTED]
3. We would progress with the procurement of the ICG Laparoscopic stack.
4. We will need to confirm booking of clinic patients and the preference is that all referrals are handled through CHS Central Intake
5. The Cancer Nurse Specialist will have 0.4 FTE allocated to Women, Youth and Children to assist in coordinating referrals, MDT cases with RHW, Randwick.

What needs to be done:

1. I have managed to make swaps in our theatre schedules to allow for an all day operating list on Thursday of week 1. If agreed, the first list could commence on 2 March 2023. This will allow for time to get the lists adjusted and patients booked. Please confirm whether this is suitable.
2. An all day list will allow for more major cases to be performed locally.
3. If there is any delay in procuring the ICG stack, we will arrange a loan from Karl Storz.
4. Ram to send me details of your CV and contact information to commence the credentialing process and for a contract to be issued.
5. We will confirm details of the Cancer Specialist Nurse.
6. Once agreed, we will work with Comms to send out the appropriate messaging.

Please let me know if there is any omission or correction to the points noted above.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
Garran
ACT 2605
Australia

Tel: +61 (0)2 6174 7500



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Vice President



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

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Out of Scope



From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 16 January 2023 11:30 PM

To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Wayne Hsueh (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
[REDACTED]

Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>;

O'Neill, Cathie (Health) <Cathie.O'Neill@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Craft, Paul (Health) <Paul.Craft@act.gov.au>; Davis,

Alison (Health) <Alison.Davis@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Gynae Oncology Service at ACT

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Dear Boon/ team

Thank you all for your input into the meeting and forward plans.

I am happy to come this Friday (20th) to Canberra if that fits with the team. Or if it is too short notice, then 3 February.

██████████ and I are unlikely to come together as one or the other remains on site. ██████████
 ██████████ Please do feel free to share my contact number with anyone in the team who might need it. I would like to meet with all your staff/ wards/ theatres/ clinics/ Katherine / Susan/ yourself!

We have sorted out most of the patients on the list (apart from the one who saw him privately). Katherine has been very helpful and ██████████ would like to meet the person who may be filling that role - not sure about the timelines.

Re. laparoscopic / ICG - I suppose a local Stryker rep can provide details/ quotes - will try and seek info in the coming weeks. I have used both Storz and Stryker, both are great, just different but do the job very well. I will also check with the Storz rep - I had looked at all the stuff when we ordered the upgrade for our theatres early last year, a lot has happened since then.

The other matter would be to provide a contact at your end for a provider number application / relevant support letter - I can't do it on PRODA currently ██████████ and it can take 4 weeks..

I am hoping to get this sorted as soon as with the help of the teams on both sides. As we were not expecting to be in this situation right now, we are required to ensure that there are no gaps at Randwick.
 Out of Scope ██████████

I remain optimistic about starting clinics sooner than theatres as you mentioned.

With kind regards and thanks again

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
 South Eastern Sydney
 Local Health District



From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2023 17:07

To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED] Wayne Hsueh (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]

Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>; O'Neill, Cathie (Health) <Cathie.O'Neill@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] paul.craft <paul.craft@act.gov.au>; Alison.Davis <Alison.Davis@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Gynae Oncology Service at ACT

OFFICIAL

Dear Ram,

Many thanks for the discussions this morning.

As I mentioned, we are progressing with the allocation of theatre sessions and I am working with the Equipment Manager in theatre to ensure that the ICG equipment is available when needed. In the meantime, can you please identify exactly which component of the laparoscopic stack is essential so that we can start the procurement process. You mentioned the Stryker Pinpoint system as well. Can you please send me any information on this as well?

Thank you for sending your CV. I have forwarded it to the Credentialing team to start the process. You will be contacted by them to commence credentialing. Once this is done, we can proceed quickly to issue a contract to at least start with the clinics. Please ask [REDACTED] to send me his CV as well for the same purpose.

We agree that a site visit is important. It will be good if you can let us know when you (and [REDACTED]) will be able to come so that Kelly can arrange the flights and transport.

I have already sent you the details of the 4 patients who are on the waiting list and I will speak with Greg tomorrow to clarify a plan for them.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
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Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District



From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 17:58

To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD [REDACTED]) Wayne Hsueh (South Eastern Sydney LHD [REDACTED])

Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>; O'Neill, Cathie (Health) <Cathie.O'Neill@act.gov.au>

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Out of Scope

From: MDAAC <MDAAC@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 20 January 2023 9:07 AM
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Subject: Canberra Health Services - Invitation to submit credentialing profile
Importance: High

You don't often get email from mdaac@act.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear A/Prof Athavale,

We've been informed that you are intending to provide services in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Canberra Health Services.

As a first step, credentialing needs to be completed and this can take time. Please find attached an information pack regarding our Senior Medical credentialing process, and we use the eCredential system as a primary platform.

I have invited you directly from the system, and an email would have been sent to your nominated email on the system (it is a @gmail account) already. Please see the link to eCredentialing: [eCredential \(myclinicalprofile.com.au\)](https://myclinicalprofile.com.au)

It would be very much appreciated if you could please update your MyProfile, and link your profile to our organisation position on the main eCredential dashboard page.

Thanks very much for your assistance at your earliest convenience to complete credentialing as timely as we can and if you have any questions please let us know.

Kind regards, Pete

Pete Podolski

A/g Senior Manager – Credentialing

Medical Officer Support, Credentialing, Education, and Training Unit (MOSCETU)

Canberra Health Services

PO Box 11 Woden ACT 2606

Phone: (02) 5124 7231

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Services**

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Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 3:15 PM
Subject: RE: Clarifying gynae-oncology consulting pathways for our on call gynaecology registrars.
Attachments: Gyn onc Referral proforma.doc

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you Sarah.

Yes the contact details are correct.

We will have a new 2nd Fellow Rebecca Trethowan from Feb 2023 (replacing Leon) - and Charmian (Wan Eng- email id as above) or Rebecca may take calls. But it may be good to stick with Charmian who knows how it all works (!). There is also a Consultant on call for any urgent cases (via switchboard) if any of the Fellows cannot be contacted.

We would like our gyn onc referral proforma to be completed as best as possible.. see attached. Please feel free to contact me if there are any issues with the proforma.

Also, please can we check the referral letter proforma from your end as we are regularly receiving letters directed to Prof Hacker/ Archana Rao and Greg Robertson.

Can this now be amended to reflect the gyn onc senior staff at RHW - A/Prof Ramanand Athavale, Dr Kingman Wan and A/Prof Proietto please

Many thanks and happy to help

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynae Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

*Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200*



Health
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 Local Health District



From: Peters, Sarah (Health) <Sarah.Peters@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 January 2023 2:51 PM

To: Peters, Sarah (Health) <Sarah.Peters@act.gov.au>; Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Ramanand

Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Cc: Adair, Steven (Health) <Steven.Adair@act.gov.au>; Ahmadzai, Marrwah <Marrwah.Ahmadzai@act.gov.au>; Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Chintamani, Alekhya <Alekhya.Chintamani@act.gov.au>; Cukierman, Roni (Health) <Roni.Cukierman@act.gov.au>; French, Lauren (Health) <Lauren.French@act.gov.au>; Garcia, Barbara (Health) <Barbara.Garcia@act.gov.au>; Hodge, Wendy (Health) <Wendy.Hodge@act.gov.au>; Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Linehan, Jenna (Health) <Jenna.Linehan@act.gov.au>; Mallaiyan, Sharadha (Health) <Sharadha.Mallaiyan@act.gov.au>; Nair, Anil (Health) <Anil.Nair@act.gov.au>; Orefice, Roberto (Health) <Roberto.Orefice@act.gov.au>; Piedimonte, Kate (Health) <Kate.Piedimonte@act.gov.au>; Rahim, Ayesha (Health) <Ayesha.Rahim@act.gov.au>; Stefanelli, Sergio (Health) <Sergio.Stefanelli@act.gov.au>; Stepto, Rebeka (Health) <Rebeka.Stepto@act.gov.au>; OMAR ADHAM [REDACTED] De Cure, Natalie (Health) <Natalie.DeCure@act.gov.au>; Wright, Josie (Health) <Josie.Wright@act.gov.au>; Hodge, Wendy (Health) <Wendy.Hodge@act.gov.au>; Vress, Danica (Health) <Danica.Vress@act.gov.au>; Linehan, Jenna (Health) <Jenna.Linehan@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Saha, Sumi (Health) <Sumi.Saha@act.gov.au>; Gallagher, Elizabeth (Health) <Elizabeth.Gallagher@act.gov.au>; Saha, Sumi (Health) <Sumi.Saha@act.gov.au>; Robson, Stephen (Health) <Stephen.Robson@act.gov.au>

Subject: Clarifying gynae-oncology consulting pathways for our on call gynaecology registrars.

You don't often get email from sarah.peters@act.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

Just clarifying who we are calling/ referring to for our current on call gynaecology oncology concerns at TCH:

Our contact at Royal hospital for woman, sydney is :

Dr Charmian Eng
 Gynaecological Oncology Fellow
 Wan Eng (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
 Royal Hospital for Women
 Barker Street, Randwick, NSW 2031
 T: 02 9382 6290 | F: 02 93826200

This involves the same MDT paperwork and referral paperwork as we used previously and the departments fax number is above.

I have cc'd Drs. Lim and Athavale, so we can be updated if this referral pathway changes at any stage.

Warm regards,
 Dr Sarah Peters
 Obstetrics & Gynaecology SR

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GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER CENTRE



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

A/Professor Ramanand Athavale
Director, Gynaecological Oncology

Provider No. 5688902J

A/Professor Anthony Proietto
Gynaecological Oncologist

Provider No. 049146RH

A/Professor Michael Campion
Pre-Invasive Services

Provider No. 0480473H

Dr King Man Wan
Gynaecological Oncologist

Provider No. 425903BW

Dr Rosanne Moses
Palliative Medicine

Provider No. 17276AJ

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN GYNAECOLOGY ONCOLOGY REFERRAL

REFERRER DETAILS

NAME:		CONSULTANT & PROVIDER NO:	
UNIT / HOSPITAL:			

PATIENT DETAILS

NAME:		MRN:	
DOB (AGE):		MEDICARE NUMBER:	
ADDRESS:		CONTACT NUMBER:	
GP:			
<i>Patient is aware of referral: YES / NO</i>			
Interpreter required Yes/ No		Language:	

REASON FOR REFERRAL:			
PRESENTING COMPLAINT:			
PAST HISTORY:			
FAMILY HISTORY:			
SOCIAL HISTORY:			
ECOG STATUS:			
BRCA status (ovarian cancer)	Date of test: Mainstreaming / Somatic	Result:	

Surgical details (if applicable)	OPERATION: SURGEON: DATE: FINDINGS: RESIDUAL DISEASE:
Chemotherapy/ Radiotherapy details- if applicable	

PATHOLOGY: (DATE / PROVIDER)	Please provide full reports of diagnostic tests, tumour markers, histopathology
----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

IMAGING: (DATE / PROVIDER)	Please provide full reports of USS, CT, MRI, PET CT (as applicable)
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

**For any further assistance, please contact Gynae Oncology Secretary on 02 9382 6290
Fax completed referral with any relevant results/reports to 02 9382 6200**

Lang, Samantha (Health)

From: Barnes, Kelly (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 1:06 PM
To: CHS, WYC Executive Office
Subject: FW: Gynae Oncology Update

OFFICIAL

Kind Regards,

Kelly Barnes

Personal Assistant to
Clinical Director of Women, Youth & Children | A/Prof Boon Lim
Clinical Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology | Dr Roopendra Banerji
 Women, Youth & Children | Canberra Health Services
 WYC Building 11, Level 3 | Yamba Drive, Garran ACT 2605
 Ph: 02 5124 7583



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From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 22 December 2022 8:58 PM
To: Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Abdou, Rania (Health) <Rania.Abdou@act.gov.au>; Agastra, Oltana (Health) <Oltana.Agastra@act.gov.au>; Ahmadzai, Marrwah <Marrwah.Ahmadzai@act.gov.au>; Barkat, Kawthar (Health) <Kawthar.Barkat@act.gov.au>; Chintamani, Alekhya <Alekhya.Chintamani@act.gov.au>; Cukierman, Roni (Health) <Roni.Cukierman@act.gov.au>; French, Lauren (Health) <Lauren.French@act.gov.au>; Garcia, Barbara (Health) <Barbara.Garcia@act.gov.au>; Hodge, Wendy (Health) <Wendy.Hodge@act.gov.au>; Huynh, Florence (Health) <Florence.Huynh@act.gov.au>; Mallaiyan, Sharadha (Health) <Sharadha.Mallaiyan@act.gov.au>; Meyn, Ashleigh <Ashleigh.Meyn@act.gov.au>; Peters, Sarah (Health) <Sarah.Peters@act.gov.au>; Piedimonte, Kate (Health) <Kate.Piedimonte@act.gov.au>; Rahim, Ayesha (Health) <Ayesha.Rahim@act.gov.au>; Stepto, Rebeka (Health) <Rebeka.Stepto@act.gov.au>; Vress, Danica (Health) <Danica.Vress@act.gov.au>; Wright, Josie (Health) <Josie.Wright@act.gov.au>; Zhang, Yong (Health) <Yong.Zhang@act.gov.au>; Adair, Steven (Health) <Steven.Adair@act.gov.au>; 'Adham, Omar [REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]@act.gov.au>; 'Anil Nair [REDACTED]' <[REDACTED]@act.gov.au>; Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Crocker, Shyamalee (Health) <Shyamalee.Crocker@act.gov.au>; De Cure, Natalie (Health) <Natalie.DeCure@act.gov.au>; Linehan, Jenna (Health) <Jenna.Linehan@act.gov.au>; Low, Tween (Health) <Tween.T.Low@act.gov.au>; Nair, Anil (Health) <Anil.Nair@act.gov.au>; Orefice, Roberto (Health) <Roberto.Orefice@act.gov.au>; Peek, Michael (Health) <Michael.Peek@act.gov.au>; 'Robson, Stephen' <[REDACTED]@act.gov.au>; Saha, Sumi (Health) <Sumi.Saha@act.gov.au>; Sethna, Farah (Health) <Farah.Sethna@act.gov.au>; Stefanelli, Sergio (Health) <Sergio.Stefanelli@act.gov.au>

Cc: Alder, Wendy (Health) <Wendy.Alder@act.gov.au>; Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Pilkington, Suzanne (Health) <Suzanne.Pilkington@act.gov.au>; Peffer, Dave (Health) <Dave.Peffer@act.gov.au>; O'Neill, Cathie (Health) <Cathie.O'Neill@act.gov.au>; Howard, Grant (Health) <Grant.Howard@act.gov.au>; CHS WYC Access and Operations Coordinator <CHS.WYCAccessandOperationsCoordinator@act.gov.au>; Craft, Paul (Health) <Paul.Craft@act.gov.au>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Gynae Oncology Update

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

I write to provide you with an update on the development of Gynaecological Oncology Service at Canberra Health Services.

As you know, Professor Greg Robertson has been supporting the gynaecological oncology service for CHS and the women of Canberra for many years now. He is about to retire in mid January 2023 and I would like to sincerely thank him for his dedication to the service. His attendance every fortnight has allowed for patients to have their treatment locally and also training opportunities for our trainees. We wish Greg well in his retirement and hope that he will have a long and enjoyable one.

In order to ensure that we continue to provide a good quality gynaecological oncology service run by certified gynaecological oncologists for the women of the ACT and surrounding areas, we have been actively meeting with colleagues from Chris O'Brien Life House and also the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney. Both organisations are keen to support our service and have come up with very good models for continuity of the service. They have all agreed that having an all day operating list once a month would be a good start. On this basis, I am extremely grateful to Dr Sumi Saha for giving up her monthly all day Thursday operating list to accommodate this arrangement. This will allow for more complex cases who would otherwise have to travel to Sydney to have their operation locally. The gynae oncologists will then stay overnight and do a post op round on the Friday which will be an excellent teaching opportunity and then run an all day clinic before returning to Sydney.

We will also have a 0.4 FTE Cancer Nurse Specialist who will coordinate appointments and follow up, and arrange MDT cases with the provider unit in Sydney.

It is anticipated that this arrangement will commence in early March 2023. There will obviously be a transition period after Greg retires where women will travel to Sydney to be seen. We will also arrange for telehealth consults for those who don't need or are unable to travel.

I am sure you all agree that these are exciting developments for the gynae oncology service Canberra which will also provide great teaching opportunities for our trainees. More updates will be provided once the arrangements have been finalised.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
Garran
ACT 2605
Australia

Tel: +61 (0)2 6174 7500



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Lang, Samantha (Health)

From: MDAAC
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2023 3:51 PM
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Cc: SMRO; Canberra Health Services Revenue Data; O'Rourke, Patricia (Health); Digital Solutions Support (Health); Barnes, Kelly (Health); Lim, Boon (Health); Banerji, Roopendra (Health); CHS, WYC Executive Office
Subject: MDAAC Recommendation Letter - A Prof. Ramanand Athavale
Attachments: MDAAC Recommendation Letter - A Prof. Ramanand Athavale.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Dr Athavale,

The Medical & Dental Appointments Advisory Committee (MDAAC) has reviewed your credentialing application for your scope of clinical practice. We are pleased to inform you that your application has been successful.

The committee's recommendations are attached.

Please note: Now that your scope of clinical practice is approved, you will shortly receive your contract from the CHS Recruitment Services team. If you have any questions relating to your contract please email CHSHR@act.gov.au for permanent and temporary contracts or SMRO@act.gov.au for VMO contracts. Alternatively you can phone: (02) 6207 1450.

Kind Regards,
Pete

Pete Podolski

A/g Senior Manager – Credentialing
Medical Officer Support, Credentialing, Education, and Training Unit (MOSCETU)
Canberra Health Services
PO Box 11 Woden ACT 2606
Phone: (02) 5124 7231

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Phone: 02 5124 7231 Fax: 02 5124 3626

A/Prof. Ramanand Digambar Athavale
C/- Canberra Health Services

Dear A/Prof. Athavale

Approval Notice – CHS Initial Scope of Clinical Practice

The Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory Committee (MDAAC) reviewed your application for scope of clinical practice at Canberra Health Services (CHS) on 20/02/2023.

The Committee agreed to recommend that you be granted scope of clinical practice as outlined below:

Specialty	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Scope of Practice within the specialty	Includes Gynaecological Oncology
Admitting Rights	Yes
Supervisor(s)	Not required
Credentialed at	Canberra Health Services
Appointment	Locum VMO
Proposed review date	27 February 2024

I am pleased to advise you that Mr Dave Peffer, Chief Executive Officer, CHS has considered and supported the recommendation made by the MDAAC. This letter is official confirmation of that approval. Your scope of clinical practice review date is in the table above and you will be contacted by the Credentialing Unit before this date.

If you have any queries regarding your scope of clinical practice, please contact the Credentialing team on (02) 5124 7231 or by email MDAAC@act.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Pete Podolski
A/g Manager
Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice Team

23 February 2023

Cc: Executive Director, Clinical Director
E-health Support, Patient Liaison Office

Note: MDAAC uses the term "scope of clinical practice" (and not "clinical privileges") to align CHS and Cross-Territory practice with the extant *Standard for Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice* (Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2004).

Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
 [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 7:22 PM
To: Kim, Aeleen (Health)
Cc: Lim, Boon (Health); Lollback, Ben (Health)
Subject: Re: ICG endoscope for gynae onc

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Thank you Aeleen..I understand the challenges.

Once we get started, we will explore options for doing public cases in pvt but I reckon we are quite some time away from that.

I will need to talk to Storz as I can't see why we couldn't replicate what we have at Randwick- it is the older version with a foot pedal and ICG scopes with ICG stack- it is not 4k but it works fine and whilst we await the bigger move to the new premises at ACT, we can start with this. It might mean purchasing this upgrade and then purchasing the full 4 k at a later date but hopefully ACT will have better staffing and more cases to justify the expense.

Out of Scope

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
 South Eastern Sydney
 Local Health District



From: Kim, Aeleen (Health) <Aeleen.Kim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 18:03
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Cc: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Lollback, Ben (Health) <Ben.Lollback@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ICG endoscope for gynae onc

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Prof. Athavale. I'm so sorry I just got around to replying to your email. I must have missed it. I have some information to share in regards to loaning ICG tower.

Karl storz will be able to loan both equipment and instruments FOC for up to 4 weeks but for long term loan, [REDACTED] per month loan fee applies and the instruments are required to be purchased.

It is a very expansive asset considering the number of cases but I do understand that it is an advance surgical approach that's beneficial in providing quality care.

Firstly, I would like to find out if it is a possible option to perform surgeries that require ICG system at a private hospital as a public patient until we move across to CSB?

If it cannot be performed in private can this requirement be discussed at a higher level to support the cost of the loan system?

I am worried that the surgical services operational budget might not be able to accommodate with such expense (I've been told that we are way over our budget already...).

I am hesitant and wary of working towards procurement of this equipment before CSB in case of any conflicts that might arise with future tender process which CSB procurement will lead on.

I will be honest and say I need some help drive this request.

I will continue to have discussion with my ADON to brain storm together. I'm sorry it's not a positive news. I hope you understand our current situation and I'm happy to continue to work around different ways to make it work. Sincerely,

Aeleem Kim | Instrument/Circulating Nurse | Perioperative Unit Resource Manager | HSR
 Phone : 02 5124 5785 | Email: aeleem.kim@act.gov.au
 Perioperative Unit | Division Surgery and Oral Health | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Building 12, Level 3, Canberra Hospital | PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | act.gov.au
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From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2023 10:40 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Kim, Aeleem (Health) <Aeleem.Kim@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cole, Deanne (Health) <Deanne.Cole@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: ICG endoscope for gynae onc

OFFICIAL

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Thanks Aeleem and Prof Lim

We would hope to do 2 cases every 4 weeks as per the current arrangements for theatre space. We may go up further, but that is something we will inform everyone involved in the fullness of time.

The ICG stack is linked to the ICG telescopes which are all 10 mm - I would imagine that the Storz guys will hopefully supply those too as there is little value in having an ICG stack without the compatible scopes 😊. I haven't actually seen the scopes at ACT so can't comment in any more detail.

Out of Scope

Let me know if there are any issues and I can always ask one of our theatre staff to liaise with you directly. Perhaps we can also do a FaceTime /whatsapp video call so you can see what we've got?

Kind regards

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District



From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 3 February 2023 15:41
To: Kim, Aeleem (Health) <Aeleem.Kim@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cole, Deanne (Health) <Deanne.Cole@act.gov.au>; Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: ICG endoscope for gynae onc

OFFICIAL

Dear Aeleem,

Thanks for looking into this.

I have included Prof Athavale in this reply for him to clarify.

Kind regards

Boon

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From: Kim, Aeleem (Health) <Aeleem.Kim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 1:21:21 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cole, Deanne (Health) <Deanne.Cole@act.gov.au>
Subject: ICG endoscope for gynae onc

Hi Prof, I have been looking into how we can place ICG stack in our Perioperative Unit slowly. With Dr. Athavale on board can I please find out exactly what kind of instruments (which particular telescope) he will require and how often and how many cases we are expected to perform using ICG system?

I am in negotiation with Karl Storz to see a loan stack can be placed. A loan agreement paperwork should be done given the value of the equipment but the company is looking into loaning the equipment FOC to us for 3 months. Duration of the loan period is in further discussion but usually loan fee of this system is [REDACTED] per month. Dr. Rampersad is also requesting the use this system for some of his patients too. So I am trying to the best to have the system in as soon as possible if it is allowed.

Aeleem Kim | Instrument/Circulating Nurse | Perioperative Unit Resource Manager | HSR

Phone : 02 5124 5785 | Email: aeleem.kim@act.gov.au

Perioperative Unit | Division Surgery and Oral Health | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Building 12, Level 3, Canberra Hospital | PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | act.gov.au

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Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of NSW Health or any of its entities.

Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 10:07 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health)
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health)
Subject: Re: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

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Thanks Boon - I understand.

I am offering to come on the 17th (as a one off) to get introduced to the systems/ IT/ HR and a clinic - much the same as what would have happened last week, but if it isn't required, that is very fine by me.

I would like to clarify that I did not initiate the cancellation last week if it wasn't for the contract detail, and OMU who were adamant about the requirements. Whilst I respect policies and procedures, it wasn't the best start.

I had reserved the whole day for Canberra.

[REDACTED]

So I think what we will focus on is to sort out the contract in the forthcoming days.

Re: theatre cases, it would make more sense to see the patients and then operate - this will depend upon the details of the cases - and I am happy to have a look and decide if they are suitable for telehealth or F2F. We brought in most of Greg's handed over patients (barring one) on the day before surgery for a clinical review, confirmation of consent, preadmission, anaesthetic review and theatre plan. As it turned out, we had a couple of surprises requiring a change of plan/ MDT etc. which is inevitable for our type of patients, even when they are fully worked up at TCH. I accept that the patients on the waiting lists are cat 2 and may not spring a surprise but you never know!

I have confirmed my availability for the 30th /31st March. Let me know if anything changes

Happy to discuss

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
 South Eastern Sydney
 Local Health District



From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 17:18
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

Hi Ram,

Can we clarify when exactly you can come because we cannot have late cancellation again?

Rather than trying to set up a clinic on 17 March, can we just confirm that you will come for a theatre list on 30th and clinic on 31st?

We can set up a Telehealth clinic for the preop patients before the 30th.

Will that work?

Kind regards

Boon

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From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:04:20 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Gynae Onc

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Dear Boon

I am not sure if we are going to be ready for me to come on the 17th March for HR and clinic.

If I have theatre cases for the 30th March, I would like to see the patients in clinic beforehand to avoid surprises.

Many thanks

Ram

From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 10:39 AM
To: Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Little, Jess (Health) <Jess.Little@act.gov.au>; Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED] Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

Hi Nicole,

We are hopeful that A/Prof. Athavale will be able to come to operate on 30/3.

We are sorting out the contract and hopefully it will all be sorted by then.

Ram, can you please confirm your availability for the list?

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
Garran
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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
 COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

From: Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 10:17 AM

To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>

Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Little, Jess (Health) <Jess.Little@act.gov.au>

Subject: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

Dear Boon

Hope you are well.

I was just wondering if you have any update on the visiting Gynae Onc team from Sydney. The first list was to be on the 2/3 but did not occur.

We still have a couple of patients left from Greg's list to do.

I would be grateful for any information. The next list is the 30/3 and we would like to plan those two patients.

Regards

Nicole

Nicole Larkin | Assistant Director of Nursing | Surgical Bookings & Pre-admission Clinic

Phone: 02 5124 2601 or [REDACTED] Email: nicole.larkin@act.gov.au

Division of Surgery | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Building 12, Level 2, Canberra Hospital | PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | act.gov.au

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Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Treloggen, Danielle (Health)
Sent: Thursday, 9 March 2023 9:57 AM
To: Lim, Boon (Health)
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health); ACTHealth, Booking And Scheduling Service WCH; Robinson, Vanessa (Health)
Subject: RE: Gynae Onc
Attachments: scan_danielle_treloggen_2023-03-09-09-53-23.pdf

Good morning Boon

Thank you for this email. Can I please ask that requests like this are also sent to the generic inbox bservicewch@act.gov.au.

Amanda has highlighted the following issues:

12-patients still need to be rescheduled from the clinic that was cancelled on March 3 – are we booking these patients in on March 17 (list attached)

The additional bookings for surgical bookings are they to be added as well, making a total of 14-patients for the 17.03?

We'll await further advice before actioning this – thankyou, Boon.

Warm regards

Danielle Treloggen
 Division of Women, Youth & Children
 Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Phone: 02 5124 2776 | Email: danielle.treloggen@act.gov.au
 Level 3 of 1 Moore Street, Canberra | PO Box 825, Canberra ACT 2601
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From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2023 2:07 PM
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED] Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Little, Jess (Health) <Jess.Little@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>; Treloggen, Danielle (Health) <Danielle.Treloggen@act.gov.au>; Twyford, Chris (Health) <Chris.Twyford@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

A/Prof Athavale will be coming to Canberra on 17 March for us to on board him with DHR training etc. and then a clinic after that. Please ensure that the women scheduled for theatre on 30 March are given appointments to attend to see him on 17 March. He has also said that there will be a number of post op patients from Sydney that he wishes to see and will provide the details to Chris.

Ram, Kelly will liaise with you re flights.

Please let me know if you foresee any problem.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
Garran
ACT 2605
Australia

Tel: +61 (0)2 6174 7500



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Vice President



THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
 COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 11:41 AM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Little, Jess (Health) <Jess.Little@act.gov.au>;
 Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Gynae Onc

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Yes, I am available on the 30th March.

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynaecological Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



Health
 South Eastern Sydney
 Local Health District



From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 10:38
To: Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Little, Jess (Health) <Jess.Little@act.gov.au>; Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED] Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

Hi Nicole,

We are hopeful that A/Prof. Athavale will be able to come to operate on 30/3.

We are sorting out the contract and hopefully it will all be sorted by then.

Ram, can you please confirm your availability for the list?

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
Garran
ACT 2605
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Tel: +61 (0)2 6174 7500



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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

From: Larkin, Nicole (Health) <Nicole.Larkin@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 10:17 AM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>

Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Little, Jess (Health) <Jess.Little@act.gov.au>
Subject: Gynae Onc

OFFICIAL

Dear Boon

Hope you are well.

I was just wondering if you have any update on the visiting Gynae Onc team from Sydney. The first list was to be on the 2/3 but did not occur.

We still have a couple of patients left from Greg's list to do.

I would be grateful for any information. The next list is the 30/3 and we would like to plan those two patients.

Regards

Nicole

Nicole Larkin | Assistant Director of Nursing | Surgical Bookings & Pre-admission Clinic

Phone: 02 5124 2601 or [REDACTED] Email: nicole.larkin@act.gov.au

Division of Surgery | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Building 12, Level 2, Canberra Hospital | PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | act.gov.au

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Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Sent: [REDACTED]
 Tuesday, 14 March 2023 6:07 PM
To: Barnes, Kelly (Health)
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health); Lim, Boon (Health)
Subject: RE: Ramanand ATHAVALA _VMO Contract & Payment Details_no GST
Attachments: 1319_001.pdf

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Dear Kelly

Please signed pages 43 and 58 - sorry I was working from home yesterday and could not get a witness signature!

See you Friday 17th March

Ram

A/Prof Ramanand Athavale

Director Gynae Oncology/ Senior Staff Specialist
 Conjoint Associate Professor UNSW Faculty of Medicine

Royal Hospital for Women, Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
 Tel: 02 9382 6290 Fax: 02 9382 6200



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 South Eastern Sydney
 Local Health District



From: Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2023 4:06 PM
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]
Cc: Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>; Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Ramanand ATHAVALA _VMO Contract & Payment Details_no GST
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Ramanand,

Just checking in to see if you have had a chance to review and sign the contract?

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Kelly Barnes

Personal Assistant to

Clinical Director of Women, Youth & Children | A/Prof Boon Lim

Clinical Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology | Dr Roopendra Banerji

Women, Youth & Children | Canberra Health Services

WYC Building 11, Level 3 | Yamba Drive, Garran ACT 2605

Ph: 02 5124 7583



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From: Taverner, Grace (Health) <Grace.Taverner@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** SMRO

Sent: Friday, 10 March 2023 4:59 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Barnes, Kelly (Health) <Kelly.Barnes@act.gov.au>

Subject: Ramanand ATHAVALE _VMO Contract & Payment Details_no GST

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Dear A/Prof Athavale

I have been notified that your VMO contract needed to be amended, please find attached amended version.

DUE DATE: 12 March 2023

Please print the agreement and follow the instructions of the Covering Letter , so that we can execute your contract and ensure you are covered to be working for Canberra Health Services.

Please return all signed documents to SMRO@act.gov.au

Please note: the contract MUST be signed and returned before you can commence work.

For any queries in relation to claim forms, please contact the VMO Payments Officer.

Where to submit your Claim Forms: (Claim forms have been attached if you wish to use them. Please ensure you are using the correct template for the type of contract you have been offered).

VMO Payment Officer

Location The Canberra Hospital, Building 6, Level 3

Address PO BOX 11, WODEN ACT 2606

Telephone (02) 5124 9904

Fax (02) 5124 3453

Email VMOPAYMENTOFFICER@act.gov.au

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your contract.

Kind Regards

Grace Taverner

Team Leader, Recruitment

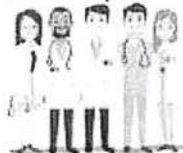
Employee Services

People & Culture | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

☎ 6207 1450 | Email: SMRO@act.gov.au

📍 The Canberra Hospital, Building 23 Level 1, Yamba Drive ACT

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SCHEDULE 2B – LOCUM SERVICES

Signature of agreement from VMO: _____

The VMO will provide inpatient, outpatient and consultative **Gynaecology Oncology** services to registered patients, including the admission of patients under the VMO's care to Health Facilities on an as-required basis.

The VMO will provide the Services in accordance with arrangements agreed in writing prior to any work being undertaken.

Duration of Locum Period

17 March 2023 – 16 March 2023

Operating and/or procedural sessions:

The VMO is engaged for the following operating and/or procedural sessions.

17 March 2023 – 16 June 2023: Two sessions every 4 weeks, inclusive of postoperative ward rounds from 08:00 – 18:00.

Outpatient clinics:

17 March 2023 – 16 June 2023: Outpatient clinics for Gynaecology Oncology inclusive of clinically related administration from 08:00 – 17:00.

17 March 2023 – 16 June 2023: Two sessions every 4 weeks. One telehealth session every 4 weeks alternating.

On-call:

Where required, the VMO will participate in the On-call roster for Gynaecology.

Participation on the On-call roster will be determined on an equitable basis (based on the number of available senior medical practitioners within the relevant discipline), and will reflect operational needs of the Health Facility. At the time of entering into this Agreement, the VMOs minimum participation in the On-call roster is Nil.

The VMO's participation in the on-call roster will be limited to the Locum Period set out above.

The VMOs involvement on the On-call roster may be varied by the Territory, with 3 months notice, to ensure operational requirements are met or in consideration of the individual circumstances of the VMO.

Ward Rounds:

As reasonably required for appropriate management of the Public Patients for whom the VMO has clinical responsibility, as agreed from time to time between the VMO and the Unit Head. As required for post operative management.

DATE OF THIS AGREEMENT 14 MARCH 2023

SIGNED by
RAMANAND DIGAMBAR ATHAVALE)
ABN: 60 675 167 824)

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of VMO

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of witness

RAMANAND ATHAVALE

Print name

ANGELA KEATING

Print name PSYCHOLOGIST
PSY 000137 2940

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
in the presence of:

Signature of Territory delegate

Signature of witness

Print name

Print name

Note:

Date: Must be dated on the date the last party signs the Agreement or, if signed counterparts of the Agreement are exchanged, the date of exchange. Also date the cover page.

Individual: Must be signed by the individual VMO and witnessed.

Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: CHS, WYC Executive Office
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 1:20 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health); CHS, WYC Executive Office; Freiberg, Susan (Health); Banerji, Roopendra (Health)
Subject: RE: UPDATE POINTS Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Thanks Boon. I have provided the update and will reach out if they want anything further.

I have been given the heads up that the Minister may want to speak to it in assembly also.

Kind Regards

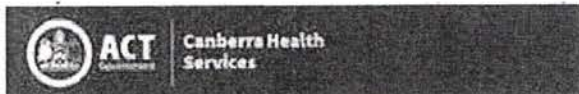
Samantha Lang | Business Manager
Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Phone: 02 5124 7431 | Email: Samantha.Lang@act.gov.au
 Building 11, Level 2, Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2606

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From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 12:56 PM
To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: UPDATE POINTS Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Hi Sam,

The Gynae Oncologist is Assoc. Prof. Ramanand (Ram) Athavale.

He is the Clinical Director of the Gynaecological Oncology service at the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick, Sydney.

He will come for his first outpatient clinic this Friday 17 March. Subsequently, he will attend come on to do an all day operating list on 30 March and then stay over for a MDT meeting then ward round the next day followed by an

all day outpatient clinic. In between his visits, he will conduct a follow up telehealth clinic for women referred to the Gynae Oncology service from the ACT.

He will be supported by the Gynae Cancer Nurse Chris Twyford who is based with the Cancer and Ambulatory Service, CHS. Chris will provide support for women who attend the service and also be the liaison person for women who require complex surgery in Sydney.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
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Tel: +61 (0)2 6174 7500



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From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 11:21 AM

To: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Banerji, Roopendra (Health) <Roopendra.Banerji@act.gov.au>

Subject: UPDATE POINTS Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Good morning

We have been requested to provide an update on the Gynae Onc Service to the Minister ahead of a media event.

Can you please provide me some points of update on the service progression.

Thank you

Sam

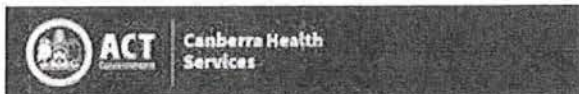
Kind Regards

Samantha Lang | Business Manager

Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT GovernmentPhone: 02 5124 7431 | Email: chs.wyexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au

Building 11, Level 2, Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2606

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From: Connor, Brienne (Health) <Brienne.Connor@act.gov.au>**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 March 2023 9:24 AM**To:** CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; CHS CAS <CHS.CAS@act.gov.au>**Cc:** Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>**Subject:** Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Hi all

The Ministers Office has asked that we cover the gynaecology oncology unit in the media this week, looking at a Friday announcement. They're keen on a media release and some TPs to support the start of the Gynaecological doctor Dr Rumm and cancer nurses from Mid-year Budget review.

Can you please provide an update and some further info on where this is up to and what can be said? Also, do you think it is possible to get some quotes from Dr Rumm?

Cheers,

Brienne Connor | Assistant Director, BrandPhone: (02) 5124 9532 | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au**Strategic Communications and Engagement | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government**Level 2, Building 23 Canberra Hospital, Garran ACT 2605 | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au

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Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Sent: Thursday, 16 March 2023 11:51 AM
To: Lim, Boon (Health)
Subject: RE: URGENT ADVICE Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

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Ok, will think of something nice in the way 😊

Ram

From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 8:20 PM
To: Ramanand Athavale (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Subject: Fwd: URGENT ADVICE Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Hi Ram

Please see below. No interview required but a couple of lines on the setting up of the service.

Kind regards

Boon

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From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 8:11:03 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT ADVICE Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Hi Boon,

Thanks for your phone call. As discussed, it's not a media interview, just looking for a quote to inclusion in a media release. Do you think A/Prof Athavale could provide a line or two on how he's looking forward to starting in the ACT and providing gynaecology oncology services for women, etc ?

The media release will be pitched on Friday.

Kind Regards

Samantha Lang | Business Manager
Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Phone: 02 5124 7431 | Email: Samantha.Lang@act.gov.au
 Building 11, Level 2, Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2606

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From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 5:50 PM
To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT ADVICE Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

I'll check with him

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim
Clinical Director
Division of Women, Youth and Children
Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Canberra Health Services
Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital
Garran
ACT 2605
Australia

Tel: +61 (0)2 6174 7500



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From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 5:46 PM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Cc: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT ADVICE Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Boon,

Can I please refer you to the below request from media to consider contacting A/Prof Athavale to provide a quote from him and include in the media release.

Do you think A/Prof Athavale would consider this request?

Kind Regards

Samantha Lang | Business Manager
Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Phone: 02 5124 7431 | Email: Samantha.Lang@act.gov.au
 Building 11, Level 2, Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2606

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From: Connor, Brienne (Health) <Brienne.Connor@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 2:51 PM
To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; CHS CAS <CHS.CAS@act.gov.au>
Cc: CHS COO <CHSCOO@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Hi Sam

Thanks for sending through the update. Do you think it might be possible to contact A/Prof Ramanand Athavale to include a quote from him in the media release? Just a line or two about how he's looking forward to starting in the ACT and providing gynaecology oncology services for women, etc etc...

Also, @CHS CAS are there any updates or changes to the status of the recruitment for specialist cancer nurse positions that were expected to be in place by March? If so, it would be great to include this.

Cheers,
Brie

From: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 1:19 PM
To: Connor, Brienne (Health) <Brienne.Connor@act.gov.au>; CHS CAS <CHS.CAS@act.gov.au>
Cc: CHS COO <CHSCOO@act.gov.au>; CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>
Subject: Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Brie,

Assoc. Prof. Ramanand (Ram) Athavale, Clinical Director of the Gynaecological Oncology service at the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick, Sydney will commence with Canberra Health Services for his first outpatient clinic this Friday 17 March.

Subsequently, A/Prof Athavale will come on to do an all day operating list on 30 March 2023 and then stay over for a MDT meeting and ward round the next day followed by an all day outpatient clinic. In between his visits, A/Prof Athavale will conduct a follow up telehealth clinic for women referred to the Gynae Oncology service from the ACT.

I understand (Trace can confirm) A/Prof Athavale will be supported by the Gynae Cancer Nurse Chris Twyford who is based with the Cancer and Ambulatory Service, CHS. Chris will provide support for women who attend the service and also be the liaison person for women who require complex surgery in Sydney.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thank you
Sam

Kind Regards

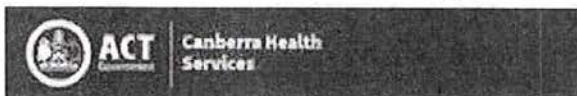
Samantha Lang | Business Manager
Division of Women, Youth and Children | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
 Phone: 02 5124 7431 | Email: chs.wycexecutiveoffice@act.gov.au
 Building 11, Level 2, Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive Garran ACT 2606

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Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 9:24 AM
To: CHS, WYC Executive Office <CHS.WYCExecutiveOffice@act.gov.au>; CHS CAS <CHS.CAS@act.gov.au>

Cc: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Gynaecology oncology announcement for Friday

OFFICIAL

Hi all

The Ministers Office has asked that we cover the gynaecology oncology unit in the media this week, looking at a Friday announcement. They're keen on a media release and some TPs to support the start of the Gynaecological doctor Dr Rumm and cancer nurses from Mid-year Budget review.

Can you please provide an update and some further info on where this is up to and what can be said? Also, do you think it is possible to get some quotes from Dr Rumm?

Cheers,

Brienne Connor | Assistant Director, Brand

Phone: (02) 5124 9532 | Email: brienne.connor@act.gov.au

Strategic Communications and Engagement | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

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Media release

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

17 March 2023

Specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon to start at Canberra Hospital

A specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon will start at Canberra Hospital as part of a new agreement between Canberra Health Services and the Royal Hospital for Women in Sydney, while a national recruitment process is underway to employ a specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon permanently based at Canberra Hospital.

Associate Professor Ramanand Athavale, Clinical Director of the Gynaecological Oncology service at the Royal Hospital for Women, will hold his first outpatient clinic at Canberra Hospital today.

Minister for Health Rachel Stephen-Smith said Associate Professor Athavale will then visit Canberra Hospital monthly for an all-day operating list, followed by a multidisciplinary team meeting, ward rounds and outpatient clinic the following day.

“This service agreement will allow patients with more complex cases to have their operation locally rather than travelling interstate,” Minister Stephen-Smith said.

“In between his visits, Associate Professor Athavale will also conduct follow up telehealth clinics for women referred to the Gynaecology Oncology service in the ACT.”

Associate Professor Athavale will be supported by a dedicated Gynaecology Cancer Nurse funded in the 2022-23 ACT Budget Review, who will provide support for women who attend the ACT service and be the liaison for those who require complex surgery in Sydney.

“This dedicated funding to expand our specialist nursing workforce for cancer care in the ACT reflects this government’s ongoing commitment to strengthening gynaecology oncology services in the ACT,” Minister Stephen-Smith said.

The investment of \$1.33 million over four years will fund two new dedicated nurses to join Canberra Health Services’ Cancer Supportive Care Team, to provide direct patient care, care coordination and navigation, support and education to patients undergoing colorectal and gynaecological cancer treatment.

“The improved coordination provided by the dedicated Gynaecology Cancer Nurse, from diagnosis to surgery and through to cancer treatments will mean fewer women needing to travel to Sydney for

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Media release

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

gynaecological oncology treatment, quicker treatment after diagnosis, shorter stays in hospital following surgery, and a better clinical experience,” Minister Stephen-Smith said.

“With a growing population and an increase in the number of gynaecological and colorectal cancers in the ACT over the past 20 years, it’s important to have dedicated nurses as part of the team to specifically manage colorectal and gynaecological cancers, like we have for some other cancer types.”

Recruitment processes are currently underway to employ two full time dedicated specialist nurses, with staff anticipated to start by May 2023.

Statement ends

Media contact/s:

Caitlin Cook T (02) 6207 8731 M [REDACTED] caitlin.cook@act.gov.au

Barnes, Kelly (Health)

From: Freiberg, Susan (Health)
Sent: Saturday, 18 March 2023 1:08 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Media; Lim, Boon (Health)
Subject: Re: Questions re gynaecology oncology clinic

OFFICIAL

Approved thank you so much

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From: Connor, Brienne (Health) <Brienne.Connor@act.gov.au> on behalf of Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, March 18, 2023 11:14:01 AM
To: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions re gynaecology oncology clinic

OFFICIAL

Hi Susan and Boon

Thank you so much for sending through last night Boon. Just confirming who these quotes should be attributable to? Is it yourself Boon, or potentially Susan?

@Freiberg, Susan (Health) please see below – are you happy for this to be sent to the MO?

.: START .:

How many patients can it support?

We're not sure what you're looking for with this question. If it's an annual number, we can follow this up on Monday.

Can the clinic arrangement be expanded to meet greater need?

Yes, as the service expands, it can cater for more women who would otherwise have to travel to Sydney to be seen locally. A small number of women who require more complex surgery will still have to travel to Sydney.

How does this clinic build the capacity to begin a permanent service in the ACT?

As the workload expands locally and more capacity is built in terms of more clinics and operating theatre time being made available, there will be the opportunity to attract staff to develop a permanent service in the ACT.

Has CHS received any expressions of interest from other potential permanent specialists?

Not at this stage.

How long is the agreement in place with the Royal Women's and Children's Hospital?

As long as is required.

Can the agreement be extended?

Yes.

Cheers,

Brie

From: Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 17 March 2023 8:55 PM

To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>; Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Questions re gynaecology oncology clinic

OFFICIAL

Hi Brie,

I am not sure whether we can supply all the answers late on a Friday evening. Anyway, these are the best answers I can give:

How many patients can it support? I am not sure what this question is referring to. If he is looking for an annual number, I don't have that information at this time. We might be able to get this from the Business Intelligence Unit on Monday

Can the clinic arrangement be expanded to meet greater need? Yes, as the service expands, it can cater for more women who would otherwise have to travel to Sydney to be seen locally. A small number of women who require more complex surgery will still have to travel to Sydney

How does this clinic build the capacity to begin a permanent service in the ACT? As the workload expands locally and more capacity is built in terms of more clinics and operating theatre time being made available, there will be the opportunity to attract staff to develop a permanent service in the ACT

Has CHS received any expressions of interest from other potential permanent specialists? Not at this stage

How long is the agreement in place with the Royal Women's and Children's Hospital? As long as is required

Can the agreement be extended? Yes

Hope this helps.

Kind regards,

Boon

Assoc. Prof. Boon H Lim

Clinical Director

Division of Women, Youth and Children

Senior Staff Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Canberra Health Services

Level 2, Building 11, Canberra Hospital

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ACT 2605

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THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND
COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

From: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2023 8:09 PM
To: Freiberg, Susan (Health) <Susan.Freiberg@act.gov.au>; Lim, Boon (Health) <Boon.Lim@act.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Questions re gynaecology oncology clinic

Hi Susan and Boon,

Please see below questions from [REDACTED] at Canberra Times.

Caitlin from the ministers office is going to look through briefs to see if there's answers to some of these already provided but any info you have on the below would be greatly appreciated.

The questions were a lot more in-depth than CT had originally said.

Kind regards,
Brie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 6:48 pm
To: Canberra Health Services Media <CHSmedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: Questions re gynaecology oncology clinic

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Hi,

I'm keen to know re the gynaecology oncology clinic:

How many patients can it support?
Can the clinic arrangement be expanded to meet greater need?
How does this clinic build the capacity to begin a permanent service in the ACT?
Has CHS received any expressions of interest from other potential permanent specialists?
How long is the agreement in place with the Royal Women's and Children's Hospital?
Can the agreement be extended?

Could I please have something back by 4pm on Saturday?

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Reporter
The Canberra Times

[REDACTED]

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Gynaecology oncology support in the ACT

Talking Points

- A specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon will start at Canberra Hospital as part of a new service agreement between Canberra Health Services and the Royal Hospital for Women in Sydney, while a national recruitment process is underway to employ a specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon permanently based at Canberra Hospital.
- Associate Professor Ramanand Athavale, Clinical Director of the Gynaecological Oncology service at the Royal Hospital for Women, will hold his first outpatient clinic at Canberra Hospital on Friday 17 March 2023.
- Associate Professor Athavale will then visit Canberra Hospital monthly for an all-day operating list, followed by a multidisciplinary team meeting, ward rounds and outpatient clinic the following day.
- Associate Professor Athavale's first operating list will start on 30 March 2023.
- This service agreement will allow patients with more complex cases to have their operation locally rather than travelling interstate.
- In between his visits, Associate Professor Athavale will also conduct follow up telehealth clinics for women referred to the Gynaecology Oncology service in the ACT.
- Associate Professor Athavale will be supported by a dedicated Gynaecology Cancer Nurse funded in the 2022-23 ACT Budget Review, who will provide support for women who attend the ACT service and be the liaison for those who require complex surgery in Sydney.
- This dedicated funding to expand our specialist nursing workforce for cancer care in the ACT reflects this government's ongoing commitment to strengthening gynaecology oncology services in the ACT.
- The investment of \$1.33 million over four years will fund two new dedicated nurses to join Canberra Health Services' Cancer Supportive Care Team, to provide direct patient care, care coordination and navigation, support and education to patients undergoing colorectal and gynaecological cancer treatment.
- The dedicated colorectal and gynaecological cancer specialist nurses will provide direct patient care, care coordination and navigation, support and education to patients undergoing surgery and cancer treatment for these types of cancers.
- The gynaecological cancer nurse specialist will also coordinate appointments and follow-ups, and arrange multidisciplinary care with Associate Professor Athavale .
- This nurse will provide the same support once a specialist permanent gynaecology oncology surgeon based in the ACT begins.
- The improved coordination provided by the two new nurses from diagnosis, surgery and through to cancer treatments will support:

- fewer women needing to travel from the ACT to Sydney for gynaecological oncology treatment
 - quicker treatment after diagnosis
 - reduced length of stay in hospital following surgery
 - improved patient experience
 - improved clinical satisfaction
- With a growing population, we have seen an increase in the number of gynaecological and colorectal cancers in the ACT, with 85 gynaecological cancers and 194 colorectal cancers diagnosed in 2018 (compared to 47 and 118 respectively in 1998).
- It is therefore important to have dedicated nurses as part of the team to specifically manage colorectal and gynaecological cancers, like we have for some other cancer types.
- Recruitment processes are currently underway to employ two full time dedicated specialist nurses, with staff anticipated to start by May 2023.
- The ACT Government remains committed to operating a permanent and sustainable gynaecology oncology service in the ACT.

Sensivities – Gyneacology oncology services in the ACT

- The ACT Government is committed to establishing a permanent and sustainable gynaecology oncology service in the ACT. A recruitment process was recently undertaken to employ a specialist surgeon, and a preferred applicant was identified and offered the position. However, the applicant withdrew their application after the offer.
- Recruitment for the specialist surgeon position continues nationally to identify a suitable applicant.
- In the meantime, the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney will provide specialist gynaecology oncology services in the ACT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

AMENDMENT

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA – Amendment to Ms Castley motion on the Notice Paper.

Omit everything from 1(b) and Substitute:

- (b) Canberra Health Services is working closely with the Royal Hospital for Women to ensure safe delivery of gynaecological cancer services for women in the ACT which includes treatment in Canberra where possible, and may also include referral to Sydney where clinical complexity requires referral;
 - (c) the ACT Government has listened to the community and the 3,218 supporters of the Change.org petition by committing to delivering a permanent gynaecology oncology unit in the ACT with a phased approach prioritised in the ACT Health Services Plan 2022-2030 launched in August 2022 and a 2022-23 mid-year Budget Review measure to expand the Cancer Support Nurses team to establish the permanent service, with all other requirements for the service being provided within existing resources;
 - (d) a number of specialist and sub-specialist views have been sought to inform the viability and evidence for a permanent gynaecology oncology service in the ACT and a phased approach was deemed to be the safest and most appropriate option in the first instance as it will reduce fragmentation and improve the experiences of women and people with gynaecology oncology cancers;
 - (e) gynaecological oncology is a sub-specialty of the obstetrics and gynaecology specialty with a small number of qualified sub-specialists in Australia;
 - (f) Canberra Health Services is working with talent acquisition specialists on arrangements for the recruitment of a permanent staff specialist position; and
 - (g) the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project, the largest health infrastructure project since self-government, remains on track to complete the Critical Services Building in 2024 which will support phasing of the permanent gynaecology oncology unit.
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) complete recruitment for the 2022-23 mid-year Budget Review measure to expand the Cancer Support Nurses team with dedicated gynaecology oncology and colorectal cancer support nurses;
 - (b) continue to support Canberra Health Services to advertise for a staff specialist gynaecological oncologist and optimise theatre allocation alongside other surgical speciality allocations; and

- (c) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2023 on progress of phasing to a permanent gynaecological oncology unit delivered by Canberra Health Services, current waitlist and historical waitlist trends, how the waitlist is managed and key performance indicators for the permanent unit.

*Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health
March 2023*



SUBJECT: GYNAECOLOGY ONCOLOGY

KEY MESSAGES:

- 1) What is the new service being established to provide ACT women access to Gynaecology Oncology services closer to home
- 2) How is the investment in the 2022-23 ACT Budget mid-year review going to support this service
- 3) What benefits have been seen by patients supported by the Cancer Support Nurses and how are ACT public health services supporting those with cancer in the ACT (detail the great initiatives that CRCC do eg. outreach etc.)

Talking points

- 1) Canberra Health Services has re-established a service agreement with the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney to support our local service. The service support agreement includes visiting specialists conducting an all-day surgical operating list at Canberra Hospital once a month for gynaecological-oncology surgeries.

This will allow patients with more complex cases to have to have their operation locally rather than travelling interstate. The visiting specialist surgeons will also do post operative rounds on the following day, doubling as an excellent teaching opportunity for local staff and then run an all-day clinic before returning to Sydney.

In addition, these specialists will undertake follow up telehealth clinics for women referred to the Gynaecology Oncology service in the ACT.

- 2) The specialist gynaecology oncology surgeon will be supported by a dedicated Gynaecology Cancer Nurse funded in the 2022-23 ACT Budget Review, who will provide support for women who attend the ACT service and be the liaison for those who require complex surgery in Sydney.

This dedicated funding to expand our specialist nursing workforce for cancer care in the ACT reflects this government's ongoing commitment to strengthening gynaecology oncology services in the ACT.

The investment of \$1.33 million over four years will fund two new dedicated nurses to join Canberra Health Services' Cancer Supportive Care Team, to provide direct patient care, care coordination and navigation, support and education to patients undergoing colorectal and gynaecological cancer treatment.

- 3) The Cancer nurse specialists are often the consistent staff member in a patient's cancer journey. They are a dedicated contact point and assist the patient in coordinating their care.

The Cancer nurse specialists often prevent hospital admission through early access to specialised services and expert knowledge on treatment side effects.

Increase access to healthcare: Ensure that people have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare services, including preventative health measures such as regular check-ups and vaccinations.

Promote healthy lifestyle habits: Encourage people to engage in regular physical activity, maintain a healthy diet, get enough sleep, and avoid harmful substances like tobacco and excessive alcohol.

Provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare: ensure patients have access to a range of sexual and reproductive healthcare including fertility preservation.

Address mental health: address the mental health needs of patients, including access to mental health services and support for conditions such as anxiety and depression.

Support diversity and inclusion: recognise and address the unique health needs and challenges faced by diverse communities of people, including those from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

- Specialised culturally appropriate education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, provided in regional communities

The McGrath Breast Care nurses are Cancer Support Nurses and are most well known for the fantastic work they do supporting people through their Breast Cancer journey.

Action Officer:

Sally Smith

Cleared By:

Cathie O'Neill
