



**Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health**

His Worship the Mayor of Melton  
Councillor Bob Turner  
Mayor of Melton  
City of Melton  
232 Iligh Street  
MELTON VIC 3337



Ref No: MC18-022509

7 NOV 2018

Dear Mayor

I refer to your letter of 24 September 2018 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, regarding the Build Melton Hospital campaign. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf. I regret the delay in responding.

Since the commencement of the National Health Reform Agreement in 2012-13, Australian Government funding for public hospitals in Victoria has grown from \$3.3 billion to \$5.0 billion in 2017-18, or by 53.9 per cent. Under the Heads of Agreement of the next National Health Reform Agreement, Australian Government funding for public hospitals in Victoria will increase from \$24.8 billion between 2015-16 and 2019-20 to \$32.2 billion between 2020-21 and 2024-25.

While the Commonwealth provides this funding to states and territories for public hospitals, the responsibility for the management of the public hospital system, including infrastructure, rests with states and territories, in this case the Victorian Government.

As you would be aware, the Victorian Government recently announced that if re-elected it will provide funding of \$2.3 million to plan and complete a business case for a new Hospital in Cobblebank, Victoria. I note your comments that Melton and the western region is in need of a new hospital to support the fast-growing community, and the development of the proposed business case is a step in the right direction. I commend you on your action in this area and I wish you all the best with your campaign for a new hospital.

I note that you have requested to meet with me regarding this issue. As this is primarily a state matter, I encourage you to continue working with the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy MP.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Black  
Chief of Staff