



**Government  
of South Australia**

Hon Stephen Wade MLC  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

MHW-MH21-3775

Ms Jane Mussared  
Chief Executive  
COTA SA  
Email: [ratkinson@cotasa.org.au](mailto:ratkinson@cotasa.org.au)

Dear Ms Mussared

Thank you for your letter dated 23 June 2021, regarding the new older person's mental health facility in the north of Adelaide.

This initiative, announced in the 2021-22 State Budget, provides \$48 million in funding over four years to construct a new 20 bed older person's acute mental health unit.

This will allow for the decommissioning of the current Woodleigh House site at Modbury Hospital. This investment will also allow for the transfer of the current older person's mental health unit from the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) to the new Modbury facility, and for the current adult mental health patients at Woodleigh House to transfer to fit-for-purpose facilities at the LMH.

The relocation of this service is an important opportunity to further advance the mental health care of older people from the north of Adelaide and also to provide access to high-quality inpatient services for older people from country regions.

Northgate House provides specialist extended care to older people with clinical needs resulting from severe behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia and/or mental illness. Northgate House has developed as an exemplar of compassionate, relationship-centred care that embodies many of the lessons learned from the Oakden Report.

**Minister for Health and Wellbeing**

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The Marshall Liberal Government is committed to developing both northern and southern sites for the state-wide Neurobehavioural Unit. The proposed implementation of this northern service is expected during the second stage of the currently funded project and will require the collaboration of people with lived experience, clinicians and community stakeholders in a co-design process.

Thank you for writing to me about this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Wade  
**Minister for Health and Wellbeing**

25 July 2021

cc: Dr Christopher McGowan, Chief Executive, Department for Health and Wellbeing  
Ms Cassie Mason, Director, Office for Ageing Well, SA Health