

PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

General Secretary Stewart Little President Kylie McKelvie ABN 83 717 214 309

In reply please quote: CMcK: Iim: A19/0000

Ms Elizabeth Koff Secretary Ministry of Health 73 Miller Street NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

> elizabeth.koff@doh.health.nsw.gov.au By email:

Dear Ms Koff

I am writing to you in regard to a resolution adopted by PSA members in the Ministry of Health which concerns the mental health of your staff.

The PSA has identified mental health as a key issue across the NSW public sector. We held the inaugural PSA Mental Health Conference in October 2018 where the extent of challenges faced by public servants was evident. Our members unanimously agreed that the NSW Government needed to develop a mental health strategy for the entire public sector.

PSA members in the Ministry of Health have raised a number of concerns in relation to bullying and harassment, the impact of excessive workloads and refusal to support flexible working as just some of the issues that impact on their mental health. As a result of these concerns, members passed the following resolution on 10 October 2018:

This meeting of PSA members supports the PSA Mental Health Conference motion calling on the NSW Government to develop, in consultation with unions, a mental health strategy for the entire Public Sector.

As PSA members at the Ministry of Health we now call on the Ministry to develop a mental health strategy, in consultation with the Public Service Association of NSW, to ensure all Ministry employees are healthy and safe at work.

The PSA seeks to commence the new year by meeting with you to agree on a way forward to develop a mental health strategy for the Ministry in consultation with the PSA. We also seek your commitment to ensuring that the Ministry gives priority to developing its response to the NSW Government's Work, Health and Safety Sector Plan.

Ms Sandra Lockey of my office can be contacted on 9220 0982 in order to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Little

General Secretary

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January 2019