

**Apartment 10, The Baytree
6 Ulonga Avenue
Greenwich, NSW 2065**

19 October 2020

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Gentlemen

re: Redevelopment of Greenwich Hospital SSD 8699

I wish to express a view on this significant project. I am a Greenwich resident in my eighties and my contribution does not relate to sightlines or tree canopy, but to proposed function. I speak for myself rather than any interest group, but I believe that I am typical of many elderly people. We are struggling with the challenges of deteriorating health, increasing disability and the inevitability of depending on care from others, to maintain life.

For the past six years, I nursed my wife who suffered from increasingly severe Alzheimer's Disease. She passed away two months ago, but I had been able to keep her at home, with the remarkable help of caring teams, including HammondCare at Home and the Hammond Community Palliative Care service. Although I had concluded that Lydia would be happiest and best cared-for at home, this was becoming increasingly difficult and acceptance of in-patient palliative care seemed the only possibility. At our stage of life, and in these circumstances, separation would have been heart-rending. In the retired community in which I live, however, it is often unavoidable, as one partner's failing health leaves them unable to sustain the other. I was fortunate in being able to stay sufficiently ahead of my own decline, to care for my wife, but each acute episode of my own conditions raised the spectre of parting. This anxiety would have been lessened had it been possible to access ongoing support for us as a couple, in a home environment and where our health would be monitored. This is precisely the format proposed by Hammond in the present application. Few people of my age wish to face the difficulties of starting a new home. For many, though, the proposed Hammond seniors' living accommodation would provide a solution infinitely preferable to a final separation – from which there is no going back! Life changes irreversibly for both partners and, regrettably, the residential aged care alternatives are often unappealing, or worse.

Growing old is not an enterprise for the faint-hearted! The discomfort and indignity, the physical and mental deterioration, the dependence on helpers, the confusion from changes of location, are all realities. They cannot be solved by bricks and mortar, nor the thickness of carpet, alone. As has been amply documented elsewhere, the existing 'progression of care' residential alternatives struggle, but often fail, to give satisfaction in meeting these challenges. In addition, they generally fall far short in managing the medical issues. It seems

clear that a better solution is the Hammond proposal to bring care and medical support closer to home, as in this integrated model. My wife had experience of the three relevant phases of Hammond care – home care, rehabilitation as an in-patient and palliative care in the community. I am convinced that the proposed co-location of home and established medical resources, together with Hammond's commitment and expertise in aged care, represents a unique opportunity which, if not seized now, will be lost at this site for decades. It should not be let slip. This solution could make life *liveable* for those many, like me, facing the inevitability of failing health. It would be an outstanding asset for the local community and a blessing to many individuals and couples. These are local residents, I may say, who are not organised and are largely unaware of this planning process. When informed, they would, I believe, speak warmly in support. For myself, I hope very much that the Hammond facility will be available when needed, for my own care.

Yours faithfully

NORMAN TAYLOR