

Hon Meredith Hammat MLA  
Minister for Health  
Parliament House  
Perth WA

Via email: [Minister.Hammat@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Hammat@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

**RE: CORRECTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY RECORD – MEETING REGARDING  
KALGOORLIE REGIONAL HOSPITAL RADIOLOGY SERVICES**

We write concerning statements recently made to Parliament regarding the meeting held on 20 January 2026 between ourselves and you, attended by three members of your staff and a distinguished former Attorney General of Western Australia.

We are deeply concerned by subsequent statements made to Parliament suggesting that concerns regarding Medicare billing practices and the operation of radiology services at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital were not raised during that meeting.

That characterisation is incorrect.

The principal purpose of the meeting was to seek your assistance in relation to what we believed, and continue to believe, are serious concerns regarding the lawfulness of certain billing practices occurring within the radiology department at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and the impact those practices were having on the viability of our Indigenous-led medical imaging service.

Whilst a number of related matters were discussed, including procurement, competitive neutrality, image access, governance, and service sustainability, those issues were all connected to the central concern that public hospital resources were being used in a manner that may not comply with Medicare requirements, National Health Reform Agreement obligations, and accepted principles of public sector accountability.

In Parliament, you correctly acknowledged that business viability concerns were raised. However, those concerns were not raised in isolation. They were raised specifically in the context of our concerns that inappropriate Medicare billing practices and the use of publicly funded infrastructure to undertake private activity were creating an uneven playing field and causing direct harm to our service.

Similarly, concerns regarding the private radiology contractor operating within Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital were discussed in detail. Those concerns related directly to billing practices, procurement arrangements, referral pathways, the use of public resources for private activity, and the delivery of services for which there were serious questions regarding entitlement to Medicare benefits.

We also discussed with you our previous meeting with Dr Neale Fong on 5 September 2025 regarding substantially the same concerns. We recall that this matter was specifically raised during our meeting and that notes were taken by your office.

For this reason, it is difficult to reconcile subsequent statements suggesting that billing concerns were not raised. Indeed, statements subsequently made by Government representatives indicate that advice was obtained from the Department regarding billing matters. That fact alone acknowledges that billing concerns formed part of the issues brought to your attention.

Spartan First Imaging was established as Australia's first Indigenous-led medical imaging service. We have invested heavily in advanced imaging infrastructure, local employment, Indigenous participation, and regional health capacity. We provide vital diagnostic services to the Goldfields community and support a broader network of healthcare providers across regional and remote Western Australia. Our objective has always been to complement the public health system, reduce pressure on public services, and improve healthcare access for regional patients.

Accordingly, we were disappointed by public statements describing our concerns as those of a "private competitor".

Public hospitals should not be in competition with local healthcare providers. Rather, they should operate alongside private providers in accordance with principles of competitive neutrality, transparency, and lawful administration. The concerns we raised were never about the existence of public imaging services. They related to whether certain billing and operational practices complied with the National Health Reform Agreement, Medicare requirements, procurement obligations, and accepted standards of public sector governance.

The people of the Goldfields live in a region that experiences some of the highest burdens of disease, morbidity and mortality in Australia. They deserve a health system that is not only accessible, but administered with integrity, transparency, and fidelity to the rules governing public expenditure.

We attended the meeting in good faith. We did so believing that serious concerns regarding public administration, Medicare billing, procurement, and governance would be independently examined and not simply assessed by those whose conduct was the subject of those concerns.

Since that meeting, further information has come to light which, in our view, only reinforces the need for a thorough and independent examination of the matters raised. That information has been, or will be, provided through the appropriate channels.

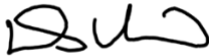
Given the importance of these matters, we respectfully request that you:

1. Publicly correct the parliamentary record regarding the subject matter discussed at the meeting;
2. Acknowledge that Medicare billing practices, radiology billing arrangements, and associated governance concerns were expressly raised during the meeting;
3. Confirm what independent inquiries have been undertaken into those concerns;
4. Support an independent review by the Auditor General into the administration of radiology billing arrangements at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and associated governance processes; and
5. Commit to ensuring that any review examines not only compliance with Medicare requirements, but also compliance with the National Health Reform Agreement, competitive neutrality principles, procurement obligations, and public sector integrity standards.

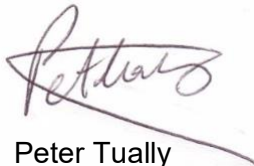
This matter extends beyond the interests of any individual organisation. It concerns public confidence in the integrity of the health system, the stewardship of taxpayer funds, and the ability of regional and Indigenous-led healthcare providers to operate on a fair and lawful basis.

We therefore ask that you correct the record and ensure that these matters receive the independent scrutiny they warrant.

Yours sincerely,



Des Headland  
Director, SFI.



Peter Tually  
Director, SFI



Clinton Wolf  
Spartan First Chair

11 June 2026

cc: Libby Mettam, ([libby.mettam@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:libby.mettam@mp.wa.gov.au))

cc The Commissioner, Corruption and Crime Commission, PO Box 330 Northbridge Post Shop WA 6865