

Record of meeting between the Acting Minister for Health and the Chief Health Officer

19 January 2022

Acting Minister for Health: The Hon. James Merlino

Chief Health Officer: Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton

Secretary, Department of Health: Euan Wallace

Deputy Secretary, Public Health Policy and Strategy: Nicole Brady

Update on elective surgery – advice from the Secretary (Department of Health) and the CHO advice was provided to Minister

Secretary, Department of Health, Euan Wallace:

Following your request yesterday, I asked the Health Service Response Centre (HSRC) for an assessment of whether we could recommence some clinical services that are currently suspended under the Code Brown and prioritised IVF.

Their advice is that this would not materially impact the Code Brown.

The Department will work with the Women's Hospital regarding the co-funded IVF to ensure lifting the suspension to make sure does not have any material impact on their capacity to respond to COVID.

On the basis of that advice, I am comfortable to recommend that we resume IVF.

I acknowledge that as a domain of healthcare, IVF is not unique I will ask the HSRC to liaise with the sector to see if there are other procedures that we should look at. We will create a process where the HSRC can make assessments and provide advice to me.

I am satisfied that recommencing IVF will have no material impact.

I hand to Brett for his view.

Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton:

It is essentially a health service capacity and bed and workforce capacity issue and if the State Controller Health is satisfied then I have no concerns re public health implications.