## Statement from Dr Teresa Anderson, Chief Executive, Sydney Local Health District:

We are aware of false claims on social media that COVID positive patients filmed during their stay in Concord Hospital were paid actors.

The three patients involved, Fawaz, Osama and Ramona, entrusted senior respiratory specialist Dr Lucy Morgan with their stories at a time when they were very ill.

All three were keen to share their stories to spread the word about the very real dangers of COVID-19, and the resulting dislocation of their families and livelihoods.

Dr Morgan filmed the patients herself to minimise risk to other staff.

It has been highly distressing for Dr Morgan and the patients to see their powerful messages undermined by these baseless and dangerous accusations, and to have their credibility questioned.

Staff in Concord Hospital's intensive care unit have also received multiple intimidating phone calls from members of the public over this matter.

The core business of our intensive care units is to take care of our sickest patients.

Staff are putting their own lives on the line every day to keep our community safe during this pandemic. They – and their patients - do not deserve these threatening distractions.

We continue to be very grateful to Dr Morgan, Fawaz, Osama and Ramona for sharing their stories and to the community for coming forward for vaccination.