

11 April 2013

Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
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Re: Correction of Hansard Evidence to Senate Inquiry on the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as docetaxel – by Mrs Helen Violet Dowling on 28 March 2013

On behalf of The Society of Hospitals Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) please note that the evidence provided by me as recorded on page 26 of the Hansard document contained an inaccuracy which is being brought to your attention in relation to the particular extract of the Hansard text as highlighted:

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<p>discrete public and private delivery of services. To the extent that the jurisdictions feel exposed, in terms of what will happen if some of those services are no longer there, we will dictate what they end up doing. Obviously Tasmania made a very early decision that they could not manage the inflow of these patients back into their very limited number of public hospitals. That is why that decision was made at that time.</p> <p>Mrs Dowling: That was based on their knowledge that 15,000 infusions were being delivered in the private sector at risk to them, coming back into the public sector, or impacting on them. And they used that \$100 average per infusion to do the calculations.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: And that points to, perhaps, the accuracy of the \$100 figure that Senator Moore had queried before.</p> <p>Mrs Dowling: Yes, indeed.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you very much. Senator Moore may have a few questions on notice. Some of you already have some homework; there may be a little bit more. If we could have that by 5 April, that would be very much appreciated.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: If other jurisdictions do provide a response to your letter, perhaps you might be able to make those available to the committee.</p> <p>Mrs Kirsas: I would just like to table some additional papers that explain what our submission has been.</p> <p>CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proceedings suspended from 13:38 to 14:09</p>		

The intention of the evidence was to provide the Committee with an example of a jurisdiction where the local Tasmanian government had provided advice to SHPA that they needed to put in place a chemotherapy assistance package of approximately \$1M over 11 months to avoid the risk of impact of the additional gap in payment for up to 15,000 infusions. They made their calculations based upon the 1 December 2012 price disclosure where they used the approximate figure of \$60. The intention being to potentially revise this figure following further price disclosures from 1 April 2013. The \$100 figure used in my statement is therefore not entirely accurate given that this higher figure is estimated on the shortfall that would be evident following the 1 April 2013.

I wish to apologise for any issues that might arise from this error on my part. Should you need to clarify or discuss the content of this correspondence, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or on telephone 03 9486 0177.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
(BPharm, DipHospPharmAdmin, GDipQIHCare, FSHP, AICD)

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

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