

From:
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Cc:
Subject: FW: Senate Inquiry - supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel - error to submission 14
Date: Thursday, 4 April 2013 10:30:10 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
Importance: High

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee of Community Affairs
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To whom it may concern

Re: Inquiry into the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel - error of fact identified in submission 14

I write in relation to submission number 14 to the Senate Inquiry prepared by CanSpeak Australia.

SA Health wishes to raise concerns about errors of fact in that submission that relates to South Australian chemotherapy activity:

- "in some jurisdictions 100% of chemotherapy is prepared by the private sector" (which based on the table included in the submission indicates that is South Australia)
- "In South Australia and Western Australia almost all Chemotherapy infusions are delivered in the private sector - the government has allowed and even encouraged such a system"
- The use of the following table without appropriate referencing:

*Chemotherapy Separations (same day) by State

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Total
Public	3,282	79,847	29,907	27,171	92	1683	950	560	143,492
Private	39,813	53,799	63,777	27,131	18,928		5456		208,904
TOTAL	43,095	133,646	93,684	54,302	19,020		8649		352,396
Private Share	92%	40%	68%	50%	100%		37%		60%

Source AIHW, Australian Hospital Statistics 2010-11

Private hospitals and day surgeries provide chemotherapy services in both metropolitan and regional centres.

The table and figures quoted are from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report on *Australian Hospital Statistics 2010-11*. The author of the CanSpeak Australia submission has failed to appropriately footnote this table and as such has misrepresented the information for South Australia.

The table refers to chemotherapy same-day separations. The situation in South Australia is that SA public hospitals stopped counting chemotherapy as a sameday separation in 2007-08. That activity is now counted as an outpatient occasion of service. This rule does not apply to private hospitals and that is why the percentage treated in private hospitals in SA is so high.

The key caveats in the AIHW source report clearly state:

- Admission practices vary between public and private sectors, states and territories, and over time. This applies, for example, to services such as chemotherapy and endoscopy. As a result, people receiving the same type of service may be counted as same-day admitted patients in some hospitals and as non-admitted patients in other hospitals. (p9)
- Before 1 July 2007, chemotherapy and selected endoscopies were treated as same-day admissions in South Australian public hospitals. From 1 July 2007, these services have been treated as outpatient occasions of service in South Australia. (p9)

The AIHW report clearly states these caveats noting that they should be taken into consideration when interpreting the data. The author of the CanSpeak Australia submission has failed to appropriately reference these caveats or take them into consideration. As such, the claims made in relation to South Australia in the CanSpeak submission are inaccurate and should be disregarded.

Kind regards

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