



Adelaide doctors have their say on health funding

Doctors from the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide will be key witnesses at a public hearing on health funding being conducted by the House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee. The public hearing in Adelaide on Tuesday, 2 May 2006 will include various SA health service providers.

Annual health spending in South Australia by governments, the community and the private sector totalled more than \$6.1 billion.

Committee Chairman Alex Somlyay said this public hearing will “provide an opportunity to speak with groups from South Australia about the challenges facing the health system and give them an opportunity to put forward their views on how this system could be improved”.

“The committee is particularly interested in getting a South Australian perspective on how governments are addressing shortages in the health workforce,” Mr Somlyay said.

Also of concern to the committee are the escalating costs of managing kidney disease in Australia. “The committee wants to hear what Kidney Health Australia has to say on this issue,” Mr Somlyay said.

Health issues concerning local government, proposals to make waiting lists for elective surgery fairer, and challenges of operating a not-for-profit hospital will also be canvassed during the hearing.

Venue: George Robinson Room, City of West Torrens Civic Centre, Adelaide

The program for **Tuesday 2 May 2006** is as follows:

- 9.30am Flinders Medical Centre Doctors
- 10.30am Western Community Hospital
- 11.30am South Australian Department of Health
- 1.15pm City of West Torrens
- 2.00pm Kidney Health Australia

For media interview with the Chairman:

Please contact Mr Somlyay’s office on (07) 5471 6611.

For further information on the health funding inquiry: Contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145, 0421 951 837, or email haa.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/haa/healthfunding/index.htm>