



655/1061.

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Health

The Hon John Murphy MP
Chair, Standing Committee on Petitions
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2012 seeking my response to a petition currently under consideration by the Standing Committee on Petitions, regarding federal funding for the redevelopment of Latrobe Regional Hospital under the Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) 2011 Regional Priority Round.

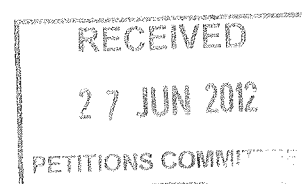
All applications for funding under the HHF were assessed on their individual merit by the independent Advisory Board against the HHF Evaluation Criteria and Regional Priority Round Additional Guidance. The Board then provided its advice to me, as the Minister for Health, on whether each application met the criteria.

The HHF Advisory Board assessed this application as having met the Evaluation Criteria and Additional Guidance. However there was a strong interest in the Round, with applications totalling almost \$3.4 billion, far exceeding the \$475 million available and the Government was unable to fund all eligible projects. Latrobe Regional Hospital was one of these un-funded projects.

All applicants were advised in writing of the outcome of their application following the 2012-13 Federal Budget announcements on 8 May 2012. The Australian Government is committed to its broad health infrastructure investment program, which is equipping the nation's health and hospital system for the future.

I note the community support for this project and appreciate the work required to prepare this application.

Yours sincerely



Tanya Plibersek

26.6.12

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