

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-166

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: HOSPITALS CLOSING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Under the Rudd Health reforms – the then Prime Minister promised that no hospital would close under Labor’s funding changes – have or are any hospitals closing?

Answer:

Under the National Health Reform Agreement arrangement, funding changes to the health system (largely premised under activity based funding) will be implemented from 1 July 2012. The provision of block funding under Community Service Obligations means that hospitals will not close as a result of new funding arrangements.

States and territories continue to be the administrators of their respective health systems.