

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-167

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: ARDROSSAN, MOONTA AND KEITH COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Can the Department explain why the South Australian Labor Government is refusing funding to the Ardrossan, Moonta and Keith Community Hospitals in that state?
- b) Are those hospitals going to close?
- c) Has the Department been asked to investigate the possible closure of these hospitals?
- d) Is the Department drawing up or considering any plans or proposals that would keep these hospitals operating?

Answer:

- a) The Department is not able to comment on the reduction of funding to Ardrossan, Moonta and Keith and District Hospitals by the South Australian Government, nor whether these hospitals are going to close. There have been discussions between the Department and the hospitals concerning their ongoing viability, but as indicated earlier, this is a matter for the South Australian Government.
- b) See a) above.
- c) See a) above.
- d) All three hospitals are still receiving recurrent residential aged care funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The Commonwealth also supports private hospitals, including these private hospitals, through direct funding contributions from Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and indirectly through its support for private health insurance through the private health insurance rebate.