

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-170

OUTCOME13: Acute Care

Topic: HHF

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) The agreement signed with the Independent Mr Andrew Wilkie by the government states in clause 6.3 the Federal Labor Government's contribution to the re-development of Royal Hobart 'will be delivered' – is that not special status that puts Royal Hobart Hospital above all other applications?
- b) In relation to Royal Hobart Hospital and that Agreement – it further states that Royal Hobart Hospital will attract 'greater Commonwealth contribution' under the reforms of the National Health and Hospital Network Agreement struck on 20 April 2010 and that under those reforms Royal Hobart can expect 60 per cent of the efficient price of each public hospital service and that it would get a Commonwealth contribution of 60 per cent of capital funding – now given that is an agreement and the Gillard Government has now dispensed with the dominant funder position of services and of contributions to capital funding will Royal Hobart continue to receive preferential treatment because of the government's agreement with the Independent Mr Wilkie?
- c) If no does this mean the agreement with Mr Wilkie is broken?

Answer:

- a) The agreement with Mr Wilkie states that a new HHF funding round would be opened, and the Tasmanian Government invited to apply for up to \$240 million for the redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH). As with all applications for HHF funding, the application was required to be first assessed by the HHF Advisory Board as satisfying the HHF evaluation criteria and Regional Priority Round additional guidance before funding can be considered by the Government. On 21 April 2011 the Government announced that RHH would be allocated \$240 million through the HHF.
- b) The Royal Hobart Hospital was not receiving preferential treatment under the Agreement with Mr Wilkie. The benefits described were available to all hospitals under the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement at that time.
- c) No.