

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-171

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) In relation to the Port Macquarie Hospital – the agreement regarding that hospital is to provide \$75 million – has the cost of the fourth pod at the Port Macquarie Hospital risen dramatically in the last few months since an agreement regarding it was signed?
- b) By how much has it increased?
- c) Who is meeting this increased cost?
- d) Is it guaranteed to Port Macquarie Hospital – is there an open chequebook in relation to this project?
- e) How is this cost increase taken account of the Hospitals and Health Fund independent assessments of projects to be funded?

Answer:

- a) The \$75 million cited in the agreement with Mr Oakeshott was a preliminary estimate only. The application received from New South Wales Health was a fully developed and costed proposal assessed by the HHF Advisory Board as meeting the HHF Evaluation Criteria and Regional Priority Round Additional Guidance at the requested \$96 million. The Government announced on 11 March 2011 that it would fund the project at the \$96 million assessed by the Board as eligible. The New South Wales Government will need to provide a further \$14 million towards a total project cost of \$110 million.
- b) See a).
- c) See a).
- d) The Government's commitment regarding the Port Macquarie Hospital was subject to the application being assessed by the HHF Advisory Board as satisfying the HHF evaluation criteria and Regional Priority Round additional guidance.
- e) See a).