

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-207

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Senator Adams asked:

Are there any current expenditures that relate specifically to the work of surgical facilities and birthing centres in regional and remote hospitals?

Answer:

The Commonwealth provides financial assistance through National Healthcare Specific Purpose Payments in Support of the National Healthcare Agreement to the states and territories for funding public hospital services. There are no requirements for states and territories to report on funding disbursements at regional, rural, or hospital level under these agreements. This means there are no current expenditures attributable to regional and remote surgical facilities or birthing centres from the National Healthcare Agreement.

A total of \$20.8 million has been provided to New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory under the National Agreement on Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan for surgical projects in regional, rural and remote hospitals since 2007-08. Projects include purchases of surgical equipment, construction and renovation of surgery suites and refurbishment of recovery units.