

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-262

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: HOSPITALS

Hansard Page: CA 129

Senator Xenophon asked:

I had an opportunity to speak with you and some of your officers outside of estimates regarding the issue involving the Keith and District Hospital. I am grateful to Senator Adams, who shares these concerns, and the member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, has raised these issues as well in relation to the Ardrossan, Keith and Moonta hospitals north of Adelaide and in the south-east at Keith and District Hospital. I understand the federal government is now saying that it will take responsibility for 50 per cent of hospital funding. There are issues in relation to overloaded hospital facilities in the Moonta and Ardrossan hospitals. Is the government aware of those particular issues?

Answer:

Moonta Health and Aged Care Services Inc and Ardrossan Community Hospital Inc are small rural community-owned private not-for-profit hospitals in South Australia that also provide residential aged care services.

The Government has recently received a number of representations that relate to these hospitals. The focus of these letters has been the impact of the South Australian Government's decision to reduce its funding to four such private hospitals across the state.

While the Australian Government provides funds to each state and territory government to assist with the cost of providing public hospital services the Australian Government does not directly fund the provision of private hospital services.