

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-252

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND INFORMATION – TASMANIAN PACKAGE

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Other than just giving the Tasmanian Government more money, have there been any consequences at all imposed against Tasmania under the National Health Reform Agreement or Partnership Agreement for reduction in funding to frontline health and hospital services?
- b) Of the \$325 million, what was new funding and what was allocated from existing programs?
- c) How much funding from the bailout has been provided to Tasmania, to date, according to each proposed initiative?

Answer:

- a) All state governments are expected to maintain effort, and expenditure on health, as outlined in Clause A80 of the National Health Reform Agreement, which is monitored by Treasury.

The National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services requires Tasmania to meet performance requirements in order to be eligible to receive reward funding. Where there are specific funding cuts, eg in relation to elective surgery, Tasmania would be likely to lose reward funding.

The Tasmanian Health Assistance Package will be implemented through the public, private and non-government organisation sectors. Funding to the Tasmanian Government will be provided through the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Health Services in Tasmania which requires monthly reporting on implementation progress. The Tasmanian Government has agreed in the National Partnership Agreement to maintain effort and expenditure on health at the level planned in the 2012 Tasmanian Budget.

In addition, a Commission on Delivery of Health Services in Tasmania has been established to advise on the reform of the Tasmanian health system so it can be more sustainable in the long term. The Commission will give independent advice to the Commonwealth and the Tasmanian Government on how services can be improved.

- b) All of \$325 million Tasmanian Health Assistance Package is new funding.
- c) Of the \$38.8 million allocated under the Tasmanian Health Assistance Package for 2012-13, a total of \$3,972,281 has been paid, or invoiced (with payment expected to occur shortly), as follows:

Element	Amount¹	Date	Paid to
Addressing social determinants of health and health risk factors	\$300,000	Payment expected before end of December	Tasmania Medicare Local
Improving care coordination for people with chronic disease and aged care clients	\$283,500		Tasmania Medicare Local
Trialling of streamlined care pathways – Medicare Locals using flexible funds to better meet the post hospital care needs of patients	\$150,000		Tasmania Medicare Local
Funding for elective surgery blitz to benefit overdue patients on Tasmania’s waiting lists	\$2,845,756	9/10/2012	Tasmanian Government
Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS) Tasmanian scholarships	\$302,570	31/7/2012	Australian College of Nursing
	\$90,455	31/7/2012	Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health

¹ GST Exclusive

Further funding arrangements, including with other service providers, are expected to be executed over the coming months, with funding to flow after that.

A Key Facts and Figures document which provides a summary of the Package composition, including details of the funding available for each of the elements of the Package, is published at: <http://www.health.gov.au/TasHealthAssist>