

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-254

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND INFORMATION – TASMANIAN PACKAGE

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

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Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

If this was an 'emergency bailout' why is less than 10 per cent of funding available for elective surgery in-hospital services? How do the other measures provide emergency assistance to patients in the short term?

Answer:

The Tasmanian Health Assistance Package is aimed at making Tasmania's health system more sustainable in the long term.

The composition and design of the Package was informed by the views and suggestions of local clinicians, health professionals, and a broad range of other stakeholders.

Commonwealth funding will be provided for a range of initiatives across the Tasmania health system to enhance timely access to primary health care, acute care, palliative care and mental health services. These service improvement initiatives will be underpinned by investment in the adoption of eHealth, and developing the capacity of a locally trained and appropriate workforce, to build system-wide sustainability.

Initial efforts concentrated on the commencement of additional elective surgeries. The National Partnership Agreement with the Tasmanian Government will deliver at least 2,600 additional elective surgeries in Tasmania. Surgeries funded under the Package have commenced.

Other elements of the Package, across the continuum of care, are being rolled out as implementation arrangements are agreed with key local stakeholders.

A Key Facts and Figures document which provides a summary of the Package composition has been published at: <http://www.health.gov.au/TasHealthAssist>