

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Commonwealth resourcing for Tasmanian Hospitals during the Howard Government.

Senator: Polley

Question reference number: F34

Type of question: Hansard F&PA Committee, page 46, 24 May 2012

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Could you give us the figures of the money that was put into the Royal Hobart Hospital by the former Howard government during their last term? If you could do provide that for the Launceston General Hospital and the north-west hospitals—Burnie and Latrobe hospitals.

Answer:

Finance is not aware of any instances where the Commonwealth provided direct funding to the Royal Hobart, Launceston General, Burnie or Latrobe (Mersey) Hospitals during the term of the Government led by Prime Minister Howard. The Commonwealth did however provide funding to the Tasmanian State Government to operate its public hospitals through the Australian Health Care Agreements (SPP funding).

While it was the Howard Government that committed the Commonwealth to take over the funding of Mersey Hospital, the Commonwealth did not take control until 23 November 2007 during the care taker period of the 2007 federal election. Funding to Mersey Hospital did not begin until after the change of Government.