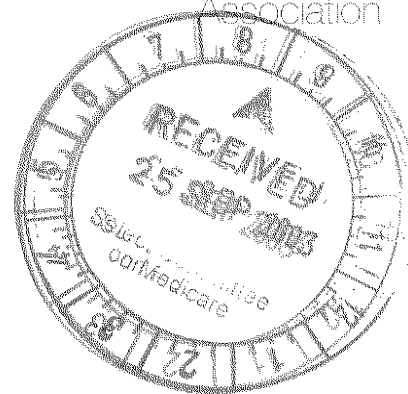
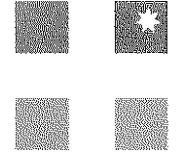


503999

Australian
Private Hospitals
Association



File 20.1.4

Mr Elton Humphery
Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Medicare
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Elton

At a recent hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Medicare, the Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) undertook to provide the Committee with additional information. On behalf of APHA, I have provided the requested information below.

1. Information on procedures performed in private hospitals (including a breakdown by jurisdiction) since the introduction of the 30 per cent rebate for private health insurance.

The only comprehensive national source of data on procedures performed in private hospitals is the annual *Australian Hospital Statistics*, produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. In addition to the annual printed report of the data, the AIHW makes several tables available only on its website. I have attached below a link to the relevant table of national data in the latest *Australian Hospital Statistics 2001-02*. Similar tables are available online for each of the reports for 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01. Data is not yet available by State for 2001-02 but is available by jurisdiction for each of the earlier years.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/hse/ahs01-02/ahs01-02-xd10.xls>

2. A breakdown of the increase in the private hospitals sector workload into same day and overnight separations

Again, the source of comprehensive data is the AIHW's *Australian Hospital Statistics*. The data indicates that in 1998-99, the private hospitals sector provided 28.3 per cent of total overnight separations and 37.4 per cent of same day separations. In 2001-02, the private hospitals sector provided 32 per cent of total overnight separations and 43.5 per cent of same day separations. That is, the proportion of both overnight and same day separations has increased in the private hospitals sector since 1998-99 and there has been a corresponding decline in the proportion of both overnight separations and same day separations provided in the public hospital sector over this period.

On behalf of APHA, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee. Please contact me if APHA can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MR', written in a cursive style.

Michael Roff
Executive Director
24 September 2003