

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000167

OUTCOME: 13 - Acute Care

Topic: Mersey Community Hospital

Type of Question: Hansard Page 105, 26 February 2014

Senator: Whish-Wilson Peter

Question:

- a) Has elective surgery that requires overnight or longer stays been cancelled at the Mersey Community Hospital in the north-west of Tasmania?
- b) Could you please give me the number of people that have undergone this type of surgery over the last six months? Have you got any year-on-year figures?
- c) If cancelling elective surgery was done on the basis of cost saving, would you also have expected to have been informed?

Answer:

- a) The Commonwealth has not received advice from the Mersey Community Hospital that elective surgery requiring overnight or longer days has been cancelled at the hospital.
- b) The Commonwealth does not have access to disaggregated data that separates elective and emergency surgery.
- c) If Tasmania intended to achieve cost savings at the Mersey through the cancellation of elective surgery procedures, the Commonwealth would consider this a significant decision, and would expect to be informed.