

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-005

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: Sorell GP Super Clinic

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of Pages: 2

Senator: Senator Bushby

Question:

According to an answer provided following Additional Estimates, Sorell Integrated Health still owed \$570,000 to the Commonwealth. Can you please confirm:

- a) That \$570,000 is still the amount to be repaid?
- b) That it has been repaid;
- c) The date that it was repaid?
- d) Will that money be redirected back into improving health services in Sorell? If so, please explain how?

Answer:

a) to c)
The majority of unspent funds, \$550,000, was returned by Sorell Integrated Health Ltd (SIH) on 12 June 2012.

SIH advised the Department of Health and Ageing in late June 2012 that it incurred a small number of expenses following the date of the Audited Financial Statement and expects additional income from a GST Refund and bank interest earned. Once the amounts of these items are advised by SIH it will be possible for the Department to identify the amount of unspent funds still held. At this time a final invoice for the remaining unspent funds will be issued.

Current advice from SIH indicates that the total amount of returned funds will be in excess of \$570,000.

- d) A competitive ITA process for \$2 million in Primary Health Care Infrastructure Grants (Tasmania) for Sorell and Brighton and the surrounding region was advertised in December 2011 and closed in February 2012. Brighton Council, Sorell Council and Greenpoint Medical Services in Bridgewater have been identified as the preferred applicants to receive funding. Successful negotiations with each party will lead to funding agreements.