

29 MAY 2006



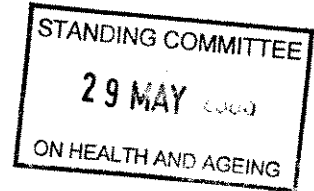
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*James pls.*

The Hon Alex Somlyay MP  
Chairman  
Standing Committee of Health and Ageing  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Somlyay

**Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into Health Funding**  
Northern Territory Government Supplementary Submission

Thank you for giving the Northern Territory an opportunity to provide a supplementary submission to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into Health Funding, particularly with regard to the recent comments of the Australian Government Minister for Health and Ageing that the current Australian Health Care Agreements could be replaced with "highly prescriptive" agreements which could involve direct funding of institutions rather than State and Territory Governments. I am writing this letter on behalf of the Chief Minister.

The Northern Territory would be strongly opposed to the replacement of the current Australian Health Care Agreements by "highly prescriptive" agreements that directly fund institutions rather than State and Territory Governments. Such a process would promote a piecemeal approach to health service development and delivery, and diminish the current collaborative work being undertaken both within the Government sector and between Government and non-government organisations to ensure a more holistic and co-ordinated approach to this important issue.

As noted in our previous submission (attached), the Northern Territory has been identified as the Australian jurisdiction with the highest burden of fatal disease and injury. As such, health services, and their resourcing, are issues of significant concern to this Government.

Yours sincerely

PETER TOYNE

23 MAY 2006

