

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000170

OUTCOME: 10 - Health System Quality and Capacity

Topic: Palmerston Hospital

Type of Question: Hansard Page 107, 26 February 2014

Senator: Peris Nova

Question:

- a) Given the Commonwealth is a primary funding source of the hospital, what is the Commonwealth's position on private service provision at a publicly funded health facility?
- b) What proportion of the services at Palmerston will be public?
- c) And what health services must be provided to public patients in stage 1 of this hospital?

Answer:

- a) States and territories are the system managers of the public hospital system and Local Hospital Networks are responsible for the day-to-day operation of public hospitals. Under current funding arrangements, the Commonwealth contributes towards the costs of each public hospital service – whether provided to a public patient or a privately insured patient – based on the National Efficient Price determined by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority.
- b) Palmerston Hospital will be a public hospital and will operate in accordance with standard public hospital practices where patients will elect to be treated as a public or private patient.
- c) The planning and delivery of public hospital services is a matter for states and territories. The Northern Territory Government has undertaken a scoping study to determine what services should be provided at Palmerston Hospital. The scoping study was released by the Northern Territory Government on 20 February 2014 and can be found at the following website address:
http://health.nt.gov.au/Palmerston_Regional_Hospital/index.aspx The Northern Territory Government has not yet provided a proposal for the expanded hospital that specifies services to be provided in Stage 1.