

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-124

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE FOR BURNIE, TASMANIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Can you please give an update and status report on the new world class Regional Cancer Centre promised for Burnie, Tasmania in May 2010 (\$4.78 million) and again on 12 August 2010 (\$16.5 million).

Answer:

In August 2010, as part of the 2010 election, the Government committed to provide \$16.5 million from the Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) for the construction of a bunker and the installation of a linear accelerator at the North West Regional Cancer Centre in Burnie.

In December 2010, the HHF Advisory Board (the Board) undertook an initial assessment of the supplementary application lodged by the Tasmanian Government for the Burnie election commitment. Noting that the Tasmanian Government had established a Clinical Expert Panel in November 2010 to report on the provision of safe and sustainable radiotherapy services in Burnie, the Board decided to defer providing its final advice to Minister Roxon around whether the supplementary application met the HHF evaluation criteria until such time that it had considered the Panel's advice.

The Tasmanian Government expected the Clinical Expert Panel's advice in June 2011.

The original commitment to the Tasmanian Cancer Care project was made in May 2010 – \$18.7 million from the HHF. As part of the negotiations around the development of the implementation plan, in early 2011 the Tasmanian Government agreed to negotiate the \$4.78 million Burnie component after Minister Roxon had considered the HHF Advisory Board's advice in relation to the \$16.5 million supplementary application about Burnie.