

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-411

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: CANCER CENTRES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) Can you please provide a breakdown by financial year of funding budgeted for cancer services in North West Tasmania (including funding announced by the Prime Minister in May 2010 and further funding committed to by the Government during election 2010)?
- b) From what program/s will these services be funded?
- c) What advice was provided by the Department to the Government between May 19 2010 and 12 August 2010 about additional funding?
- d) Was further funding recommended by the Department?
- e) On what dates did the Tasmanian Government write to the Department/Government seeking financial assistance for cancer services in North West Tasmania?
- f) When did they write?
- g) What did they request?

Answer:

a) Funding for these projects is being provided under the Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Regional Cancer Initiative. Negotiations for these projects are still continuing, including funding over financial years.

b) Please see response to question a).

c and d)

No advice was provided by the Department to the Government between May 19 2010 and 12 August 2010 about additional funding.

e, f and g)

The Tasmanian Government applied for funding for cancer services in North West Tasmania as part of its application for the Tasmanian Cancer Centre under the Regional Cancer Centres initiative.

The application was dated 5 January 2010 and sought HHF funding of \$48.6 million for the Tasmanian Cancer Care project.

A revised application was submitted on 18 May 2010 and sought HHF funding of \$18.7 million.

The HHF funding, together with funding from the state government and philanthropic contributions, will be used to build centres in Hobart, Launceston and North West Tasmania that will provide:

- an additional 18 chemotherapy chairs (12 in Burnie and 6 in Launceston);
- a third radiotherapy bunker at Hobart;
- a Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine at Burnie;
- infrastructure for a Tissue Bank in Hobart; and
- patient support centres across all three sites.

The Tasmanian Government also wrote on 20 October 2010 seeking HHF funding of \$20.65 million for the establishment of radiation oncology services for the North West Area Health Service. This application is currently under assessment.