



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Dr Holland

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Senate Community Affairs Committee
Hearing, 19 October 2012: Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Cross Portfolio Indigenous Matters Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 19 October 2012.

Senator Urquhart asked the following question:

“If someone is closer to Alice Springs than they are to Adelaide but they actually live in South Australia, do they have the opportunity to go to the Alice Springs facility for dialysis?”

My response was as follows:

“South Australia provides dialysis facilities in Adelaide, Port Augusta and possibly Coober Pedy. I am not sure. They were planning on that but I do not know if that has actually happened. Some people from the APY Lands, for example, go to Alice Springs and some go to Adelaide.

There were a number of people who were in Adelaide who, over the last year, have chosen to have their dialysis in Alice Springs and have moved there. So there is a degree of flexibility, obviously depending on what is available in terms of nurses and dialysis chairs. But there is movement around that as well, in terms of where people go and when they want to go to different places at different times. There are also some mobile dialysis facilities that the government has funded. The government has funded WDNWPT through the Purple House to run a mobile bus. We have also funded the Northern Territory government for a mobile bus. They go out to various remote localities to allow people to go—on return-to-country programs—home for special events and have their dialysis there for short periods of time.”

It has been brought to my notice that, although the government has provided funding to WDNWPT for the delivery of renal dialysis services, the government did not fund the Purple Truck mobile dialysis unit. My response should now be amended as follows (changes are underlined):

“South Australia provides dialysis facilities in Adelaide, Port Augusta and possibly Coober Pedy. I am not sure. They were planning on that but I do not know if that has actually

happened. Some people from the APY Lands, for example, go to Alice Springs and some go to Adelaide.

There were a number of people who were in Adelaide who, over the last year, have chosen to have their dialysis in Alice Springs and have moved there. So there is a degree of flexibility, obviously depending on what is available in terms of nurses and dialysis chairs. But there is movement around that as well, in terms of where people go and when they want to go to different places at different times. There are also some mobile dialysis facilities that the government has funded. The Commonwealth has funded the Northern Territory Government, the South Australian Government and the Kimberly Aboriginal Medical Services Council for the purchase and fit out of mobile dialysis buses. They go out to various remote localities to allow people to go—on return-to-country programs—home for special events and have their dialysis there for short periods of time.”

Yours sincerely



Linda Powell
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2 November 2012