

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000962

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Acute Care

**Topic:** National Partnership Agreement on Improved Public Hospital Services Funding

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 68, 21 October 2015

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Senator POLLEY: Can you give us a breakdown to which hospitals in Tasmania that funding went for the Launceston General Hospital, Royal Hobart Hospital, Mersey Community Hospital et cetera?

Ms Anderson: I am not sure we have that level of detailed information. I am happy to take the question on notice but I suspect that the state was not required to be absolutely specific. We will certainly provide what we have.

Senator POLLEY: Thank you.

Senator LAMBIE: So what you are saying is the state government could not spend that money wisely. Is it the Tasmanian people's health that is now paying the price for that?

Mr Cormack: I think the best way to answer that is that to paraphrase what the secretary just said. They were provided with a series of facilitation payments for investment in service improvement of \$16.5 million for NEAT and \$17.9 million for NEST. They have invested that and I think that is what we can say.

Senator LAMBIE: So you give them money but they do not have to answer to you where that money goes.

Mr Cormack: No, there are specific accountabilities around each of these agreements and we can provide the detail of that on notice. But at the end of the day, it is the responsibility of the system manager, which is the state government, to make the best use of that. There were reward payments that were to be made available on achievement of certain outcomes. They were not achieved. But it is the prerogative of the state government to manage its system. The Commonwealth government provided significant funding to all states and territories in line with their own specific needs and their own specific planning requirements that they believed would enable them to improve their performance in those two areas.

**Answer:**

Breakdown of NPA IPHS funding in Tasmania by hospital

Commonwealth funding paid to Tasmania under the NPA IPHS, was distributed to six public hospitals across the state being:

- Launceston General Hospital;
- Mersey Community Hospital;

- North West Regional Hospital;
- Royal Hobart Hospital;
- John L Grove Centre (Launceston); and
- Roy Fagan Centre (Hobart).

Of these hospitals, Launceston General, Mersey, North West Regional and Royal Hobart Hospitals received funding under the National Emergency Access Target (NEAT) and National Elective Surgery Target (NEST) initiatives.

The following table outlines payments made to Tasmania under the NEAT and NEST initiatives. No reward funding payments were triggered to the state as performance targets were not met.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total Payments	Total Allocation
<b>NEAT</b>								
Capital	1.9	3.9	0.0	1.9	1.9	0.0	9.7	9.7
Facilitation	0.0	4.0	0.0	1.1	1.7	0.0	6.8	6.8
Reward	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4
<b>Total NEAT</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>20.9</b>
<b>NEST</b>								
Capital	1.9	4.4	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	7.5	7.5
Facilitation	0.0	8.1	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	10.4	10.4
Reward	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3
<b>Total NEST</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>22.2</b>

The Commonwealth is not able to provide a further breakdown of the funding distributed by the state to each hospital listed above.

#### Accountabilities of the states under the Agreement

Under the Agreement, states and territories were accountable for ensuring funds provided by the Commonwealth were appropriately distributed to meet the desired outcome of each initiative.