

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000438

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Mersey

Type of Question: Hansard Page 99, 19 October 2016

Senator: Urquhart, Anne

Question:

Senator URQUHART: Let me get this really clear—so for 2017-18, it is \$62.7 million?

Mr Cormack: Correct.

Senator URQUHART: For 2018-19, it is \$62.7 million?

Mr Cormack: That is right.

Senator URQUHART: And for 2019-20, is \$62.7 million locked in?

Mr Cormack: That is right. I have not got that presentation in front of me so I will confirm that, but that is what I believe to be the case.

Senator URQUHART: When you would be able to confirm that?

Mr Cormack: We will get that to you before close of proceedings today.

Senator URQUHART: Thanks very much. When the health minister was in Tasmania last month, she was asked about ongoing funding for the Mersey and she said: 'I am not going to make commitments. I am not going to pre-empt what decisions might be.' If there is money in the budget, why did the minister duck the question?

Mr Cormack: I cannot answer your report of what the minister said. Let me be clear about that. What I can do is tell you what the situation is. We currently have a provision out in the forward estimates, as I have described. We have a two-year arrangement in place which concludes at the end of this financial year and is the 75.5 million figure that I mentioned earlier. We are in negotiations with the Tasmanian government—and that was, presumably, part of the purpose of the minister's discussions with Minister Ferguson—to progress what arrangements will be in place at the end of 16-17. So we cannot say what is going to be in place. We have got a two-year—

Senator URQUHART: But you have got a provision there for it.

Mr Cormack: We have got a provision there in the out years for that—

Senator URQUHART: Out as far as 2019-20.

Mr Cormack: Yes; as I said, I will confirm that because I do not have that piece of paper in front of me. I will confirm that before close of proceedings tonight.

Answer:

There is provision in the forward estimates of \$62.7 million per year in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, for the Mersey Community Hospital.