

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 23 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000733

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Renal Infrastructure

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 51, 23 October 2015

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Provide an update on what level of funding for services is being made available either directly to the Western Australian government or to community based organisations that may be working in that area; and if those issues have been raised. “It is more the Western Desert that I am focusing on here. I know there are other issues around the Pilbara and the Kimberley but at this stage I am specifically interested in the Western Desert area—the tristate area.”

**Answer:**

The Australian Government and the states and territories share responsibility for public hospital funding. The states are system managers and are responsible for managing the day-to-day administration of public hospitals, the delivery of public hospital services, including renal services.

The Australian Government provides funding to Western Australia to assist with the cost of delivering public hospital services, including renal services, through the National Health Reform Agreement (the Agreement). The Australian Government contribution to public hospital funding for Western Australia will grow from approximately \$1.8 billion in 2014-15 to \$2.2 billion in 2018-19. This is an increase in annual funding of approximately \$432.7 million, or about 24.6 per cent.

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Local Hospital Network (LHN) is the LHN covering all country areas of Western Australia. The WACHS received Commonwealth activity based funding (ABF) of \$175.7 million in 2014-15 for public hospital services. In 2014-15, WACHS also received approximately \$380.5 million in combined Commonwealth/State block funding for public hospital services. Specific information about the provision of public hospital renal dialysis services in WA is unavailable as this data belongs to the WA Government.

The Australian Government is also providing \$9 million over three years to Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku (WDNWPT, the Purple House) for renal service delivery in communities across the Northern Territory and Central Australia. Communities in

the tri state area such as Kintore (Northern Territory), Kiwirrkurra (Western Australia), and Warburton (Western Australia), currently have access to renal services delivered by the Purple House and services are expected to commence shortly at Wanarn (Western Australia).

The Australian Government is providing a further \$6.3 million over three years to WDNWPT for renal infrastructure in remote Central Australian communities. Early consultations have commenced with the South Australian government and Nganampa Health Service about a potential four chair renal service in the tri state community of Ernabella (South Australia).