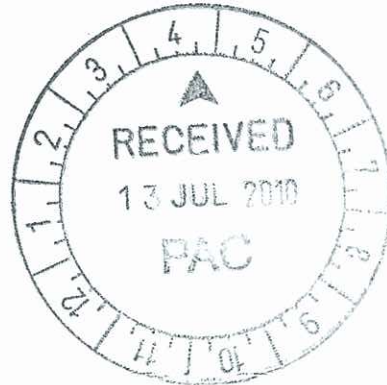


Ms Stephanie Hesford  
Committee Manager  
Legislative Assembly  
Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**



Dear Ms Hesford

### **Inquiry into Auditor-General's Follow-up Reports Out of Hospital Care**

Thank you for your letter of 6 July 2010 following up additional information requested by the Committee at its hearing in May. I apologise for the delay in our providing a response to you and the Committee. For a number of items, on further checking with my staff, specific data is either not available or not easily derived.

For example, we do not hold centrally detailed information on hours expended on education sessions regarding out-of-hospital care programs. In relation to the proportion of patients who acquire an infection within hospital who may have been able to have their hospital care provided in a community setting, it is not possible to derive this information easily. Our indicator data on healthcare-associated infections collected centrally does not identify the patient concerned for patient privacy reasons. However, as the majority of the nationally agreed indicators relate to patients receiving intensive care and/or having specific types of operations, these patients would not have been able to receive this treatment in a community setting. There is one indicator, Staphylococcus Aureus Bacteraemia (blood stream infection), that may include patients who are in hospital and who may have been suitable for out-of-hospital care. I have asked our infection control clinical advisers whether it is possible to do some form of estimation to inform the Committee. I have also asked them whether there is any Australian or relevant overseas research that might relate to this question.

A response on the other issues raised at the hearing and in the Committee's Chairman's follow-up letter to the Director-General has been prepared. I have discussed the draft response with my staff and asked that more specific information be included to ensure a comprehensive response.

I hope to have this response to you next week.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tim Smyth  
Deputy Director-General  
**Health System Quality, Performance and Innovation**

8 July 2010

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