

The Hon Ryan Park MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Health
Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast



Ref: Q24/95

Dr Amanda Cohn MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 2 – Health
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Clarification of evidence at Budget Estimates Hearing

I am writing about evidence provided by me at the Portfolio Committee No 2 – Health Budget Estimates Hearings for Health, Regional Health, the Illawarra and the South Coast, held on 22 February 2024.

Palliative care

The Ministry of Health have advised me that their earlier advice to me regarding palliative care funding in the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) contained a minor inaccuracy.

In respect of page 27 of the hearing transcript, I stated that HNELHD was allocated \$2.375m for palliative care in the 2022-23 budget. I am advised that this allocation was in fact \$2.675m.

Additionally, with respect to my testimony that palliative care in the HNELHD enhancement will grow to \$5.865m in 2025-26 and continue to just over \$6 million in the following years, I am advised by the Ministry that these figures represent the minimum enhancements that will be allocated to HNELHD in the forward estimates.

I do not believe that these changes substantially alter the meaning or intent of my evidence.

Albury Wodonga Health

In respect of page 32 of the hearing transcript, I provided the answer below as part of a discussion on Albury Hospital:

Mr RYAN PARK: No, I don't think it's covering the deficit. What I'm advised by the team in NSW Health and HI working with the Victorian Government is that, based on current planning, once fully operationalised, the new hospital as complete will have around 380 beds and this is around about a 50 per cent increase from the 2019 bed base of 245. I know, Chair, that it is not the way you would necessarily want the hospital to be redeveloped, but I'm doing it in a way that is, I think, providing growth in health services to the community at the same time as fiscally responsible.

It was not until after I had completed my evidence that it became apparent that the figures I had been provided actually referred to Albury Wodonga Health and not Albury Hospital in isolation.

I apologise for what was a genuine and unintentional error.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Committee with these clarifications.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Park MP
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20 MAR 2024