

**The Hon. EMILY SUVAAL:** With regard to the case study about preventing surgical site infections and the use of antimicrobial sutures, are these used currently in New South Wales LHDs?

**The Hon. EMILY SUVAAL:** What about private hospitals? Would private hospitals be using them?

“Antibacterial sutures are available in both NSW public and private hospitals. NSW Local Health Districts are able to purchase antibacterial sutures off HealthShare NSW’s statewide wound closure contract.”

“While the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines state ‘Using antimicrobial-coated sutures (included on the ARTG e.g. triclosan-coated sutures) can help to reduce SSI rates’ and evidence shows antibacterial sutures can reduce the risk of surgical site infection by 28%, the use of antibacterial sutures is not considered a safety and quality in health care standard in Australia.

This case study highlights that on top of national safety and quality standards, a value based approach to public health procurement could play an important role in improving quality and safety of care and delivering broader health system savings by, for instance, helping to reduce the incidence of SSI to reduce hospital length of stay or reduce the number of avoidable readmissions.” [member company response]