



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 2

MEMORANDUM

Don Harwin

To	Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC Hon Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC Revd Hon Gordon Moyes MLC Hon Robyn Parker MLC <i>Melinda Pavey</i> Hon Christine Robertson MLC Hon Henry Tsang MLC	cc:	Hon John Ryan MLC Hon Peter Primrose MLC Hon Eric Roozendaal MLC Hon Amanda Fazio MLC Hon Ian West MLC Hon Robyn Parker MLC
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From Tanya Bosch

Subject Answers to questions on notice - Health

Date 25 October 2004

Reference

Please find attached a copy of the answers provided to the questions taken on notice by the Hon Morris Iemma MP, Minister for Health, at the Budget Estimates hearing on Tuesday 14 September 2004.

Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/271

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Question No. 1), which appeared on page 3 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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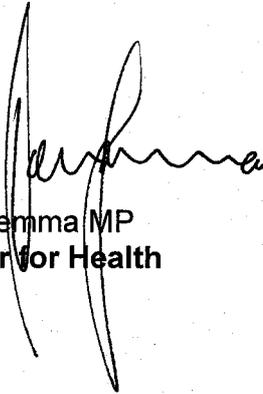
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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to the 'hospital capacity study'. The following is provided in response:

I am advised that the document referred to will not be released on the basis that it is an exempt document under Clause 1(a) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma', written over a large, faint watermark of the same signature.

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/262

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to questions asked by the Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC (Q2), appearing on page 8 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to medical indemnity. The following is provided in response:

I understand that there were two parts to the question raised by the Honourable Member.

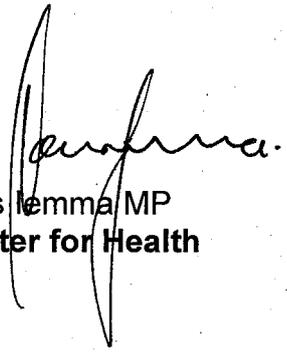
Firstly, in relation to the "Utah model of medical indemnity", I thank the Honourable Member for providing a copy of a 2001 radio transcript concerning this matter. I am advised that this transcript raises a number of issues that the Department of Health is now reviewing and separate advice will be provided in due course.

In relation to the National Open Disclosure Standard pilot program, the National Open Disclosure Standard is an initiative of the National Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care to promote a clear and consistent approach by Australian hospitals to open communication with patients and their nominated support person following an adverse event. All Australian Health Ministers endorsed the Standard in July 2003.

The Safety and Quality Council is assisting the States and Territories with the implementation of the Open Disclosure Standard by supporting the piloting of the Standard in 20 sites across Australia.

A Southern Area Health Service Steering Group has been formed to oversee the implementation of the pilot program at Goulburn and Batemans Bay.

The pilot program, which commenced in July 2004, is expected to be completed in July 2005.


Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/263

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Question No. 3), which appeared on page 13 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

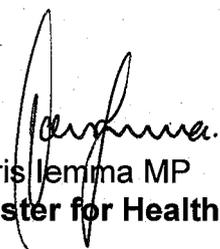
BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked questions, which were taken on notice, relating to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital redevelopment. The following is provided in response:

The Central Sydney Area Health Service has confirmed that the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital redevelopment has been undertaken within available funds.

In relation to the composition of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital foyer flooring, I am advised that the new public entry has a direct interface with the original heritage entrance. In consultation with heritage advisers, a product in sympathy with the original marble foyer was used as a transition from the existing foyer into the new development.

Less than half of the flooring in the new foyer is marble, the remainder incorporates reconstituted materials and tiles, appropriate to this heritage precinct and historic public space.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/278

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Question No. 4), which appeared on page 13 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma'.

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

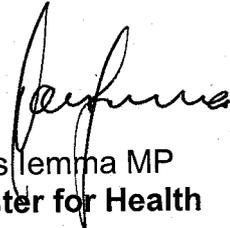
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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question, which was taken on notice concerning the budget situation at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and if all expenditure has to be signed off by the Central Sydney Area Health Service Administrator. The following is provided in response:

No.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/279

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC which appeared on page 14 (Q 5) of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma'.

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to the penalties or sanctions for CEO's who have not met their zero long wait targets. The following is provided in response.

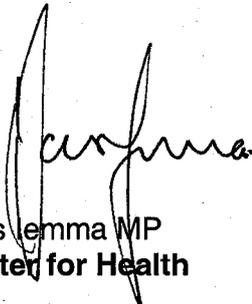
ANSWER

I am advised that the performance of the NSW Health System is regularly reviewed by the Department on a range of indicators, including long wait measures. The Director-General, Deputy Director General Health System Performance, and members of Department's Health System Performance Area routinely review wait list targets with Area Health Services.

In addition, Area Health Service CEO performance is reviewed as part of the annual performance review process between CEOs and the Director-General.

I am advised that, a number of Area Health Services have made progress in meeting the zero target for long wait patients, with a number of Area Health Services meeting the zero target during the last two years.

NSW public hospital waiting times and waiting list information is available and updated quarterly on the NSW Health internet site.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/264

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by the Hon Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC (Question No. 6), which appeared on page 16 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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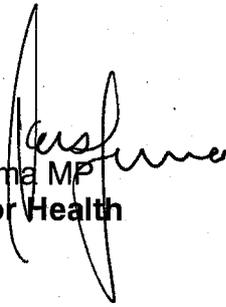
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to psychologists. The following is provided in response:

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question No. 1212 asked in the Legislative Council on 12 August 2004.

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma', is written over the printed name and title.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/280

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Q7) which appeared on page 19 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma'.

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

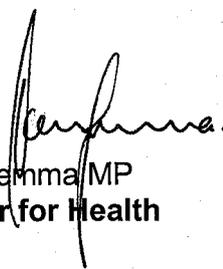
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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to the money spent on the Nursing Reconnect Program since its inception in January 2002. The following is provided in response.

I can advise that approximately \$4.25 million (exclusive of GST) has been spent on the Nursing Reconnect Program since its inception.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/281

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Q8) which appeared on page 20 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma'.

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

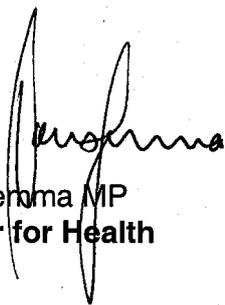
BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to Workers Compensation Claims for Nurses. The following is provided in response.

As explained at the estimates committee hearing stress leave is not a recognised category of leave in the NSW Public Service or in NSW Health Services.

In regard to the issue of assault, I reiterate NSW Health's commitment to the zero tolerance policy in relation to violence on health service premises or any other place where health related activities are carried out.

I am advised that as at 30 June 2004 there were 8 open claims recorded from nurses that relate to exposure to workplace or occupational violence. This represents 0.02% of the nurses and midwives employed in permanent positions in the NSW Health system.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/282

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Q 9) which appeared on page 21 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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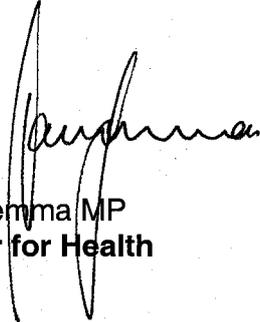
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

DOUBLE SHIFTS PERFORMED BY NURSES

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to the number of double shifts performed by nurses. The following is provided in response.

NSW Health does not keep specific records of the number of double shifts performed by nurses.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/265

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to questions asked by the Hon Robyn Parker (Q10), which appeared on page 24 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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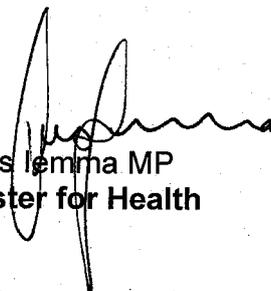
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Robyn Parker MLC asked questions that were taken on notice regarding the number of adolescents in adult psychiatric beds in 2003 and 2004 and the corresponding number of bed-days. The following is provided in response:

I am advised that during the 2002/03 financial year there were 487 separations of young people aged between 12 and 17 from NSW hospitals, where the episode of care included at least one overnight bed-day in an adult psychiatric unit. These accounted for 5,031 bed days. In 2003/04 there were 543 separations and 5,315 bed-days.

Of note, patients aged 17 accounted for half of these separations and 64% of the bed days.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/266

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by the Hon Robyn Parker (Q11), which appeared on page 24 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Robyn Parker MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to adolescent beds and their locations. The following is provided in response:

When this Government came to office there was only one facility that provided a full acute inpatient service for children with a mental illness - we now have a service linking care across the State, and a further 5 acute inpatient units.

I am advised that in 2004 the following child/adolescent mental health (CAMH) beds are available:

- Thomas Walker Hospital (Concord) – 24 non-gazetted beds, non-acute
- Coral Tree Family Unit (Ryde) – 15 non-gazetted beds, non-acute
- Redbank House (Westmead) – 9 gazetted acute beds, 17 non-gazetted, non-acute beds
- Gnakulun (Campbelltown) – 10 gazetted acute
- Children's Hospital Westmead – 8 non-gazetted acute
- Sydney Children's Hospital (Randwick) – 8 non-gazetted acute
- Nexus Unit (Newcastle) – 10 gazetted acute

In addition, staffed and supported Child and Adolescent Mental Health Network (CAMHSNet) "swing" beds are available the following 18 hospitals:

- Grafton - paediatric
- Port Macquarie - paediatric
- Manning (Taree) – paediatric and psychiatric
- Coffs Harbour – psychiatric
- Maitland – paediatric
- John Hunter (Newcastle) – paediatric adolescent
- Tamworth – paediatric and psychiatric
- Gosford – paediatric
- Wyong – psychiatric
- Broken Hill – paediatric and psychiatric
- Bourke – paediatric
- Lightning Ridge MPS – general
- Wagga – paediatric and psychiatric
- Dubbo – paediatric
- Orange Base Hospital – paediatric
- Bloomfield (Bathurst) – psychiatric
- Bega – paediatric
- Goulburn - paediatric

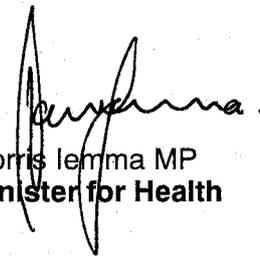
As you may be aware, the State's mental health budget has received a massive boost with an extra **\$68.0 million** for 2004/2005 (an increase of 9.5% over last year) bringing the level of program expenditure for mental health services to **a record \$783 million**.

Clients, carers and families will benefit from enhancement funding of \$241 million for mental health services over the next four years. This will include more child psychiatrists and inpatient programs for children.

As part of the first step in the four-year strategy, \$24.6 million in 2004/2005 will kick-start a number of measures including \$2.5 million enhancement of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services linking a network of specialist clinical nurse consultants and allied health staff in child and adolescent psychiatry.

The 2004/05 mental health budget also includes \$1.6 million in minor works for mental health services across the State with a focus on child and adolescent facilities and community mental health services.

The Government has made improving the quality of mental health services a priority issue. We have achieved a lot and are committed to doing even more.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/267

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by Reverend the Hon Gordon Moyes MLC (Question No. 12), which appeared on page 25 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

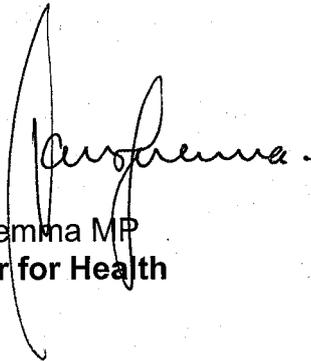
On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, Reverend the Hon Gordon Moyes MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to inpatient beds for adolescents with eating disorders. The following is provided in response:

I am advised that there are between 12 and 16 specialist eating disorder inpatient beds for child and adolescents available in NSW, which are utilised depending on need.

In addition, the Child and Adolescent Unit in the Hunter (Nexus) also takes children and adolescents with eating disorders and does not have a restricted number of eating disorder beds but rather provides inpatient mental health care on a needs basis.

There is also an increasing capacity to provide specialist child and adolescent eating disorder inpatient care through the developing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Network (CAMHSNET) model.

The CAMSNET model allows for flexible provision of specialist mental health care using mobile teams to provide collaborative support to mainstream paediatric inpatient services. The CAMHSNET model will eventually be expanded to 5 inpatient sites across NSW and will link to ongoing community treatment options.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/284

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by The Hon Robyn Parker MLC (Q13) which appeared on page 26 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

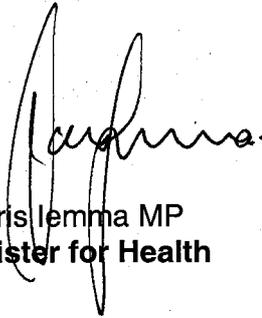
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MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to the report prepared by John Greville into psychiatric services at Tamworth Hospital's Banksia Mental Health Unit. The following is provided in response.

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to a question without notice asked in the Legislative Assembly on 21 September 2004 in relation to the matter.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Q04/283

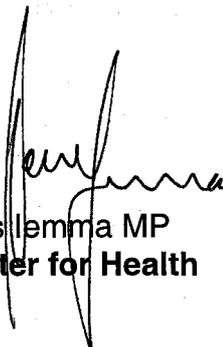
Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2004

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 17 September 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 14 September 2004.

Attached please find a response to a question asked by The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC (Q15) which appeared on page 27 of the Hansard transcript provided.

Yours sincerely



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health

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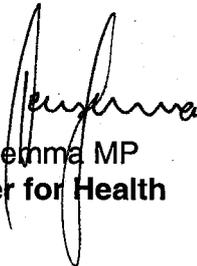
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - QUESTION ANSWERED

On 14 September 2004, during my appearance before the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, the Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question which was taken on notice relating to the number of media staff employed by the Department of Health and the Area Health Services. The following is provided in response.

During 2003/04 across the 20 NSW Health entities there were a total of 43.85 staff engaged in media and public affairs. In addition to media and public relations functions the staff in Health Services undertake a variety of other duties including event management, fundraising, production of publications and other executive support functions.

The Department of Health Media Unit comprises five staff.



Morris Iemma MP
Minister for Health