

Ms Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Bosch

I refer to your letter of 21 December 2004 regarding questions taken on notice during the Budget Estimates Hearing on 20 December 2004.

The Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC asked a question, which was taken on notice, concerning the earliest listing date for a patient currently on the surgery waiting list, which appeared on page 32 of the Hansard transcript provided. In response to Ms Forsythe's question, I can advise that:

Information relating to waiting times is available on
www.health.nsw.gov.au.

This includes the number of booked patients waiting greater than 12 months for elective surgery. Some of these patients elect to wait for longer periods in order to have their procedure undertaken by their surgeon of choice.

Patients classified as requiring urgent or immediate procedures are prioritised accordingly.

It is important to note that patients on the surgery waiting lists are contacted by their Hospital on a regular basis to confirm whether their surgery is still required. Patients are advised to contact their treating specialist for reassessment if their condition has deteriorated. Patients are also requested to contact the hospital booking office or the Patient Access Service at NSW Health if they have any concerns with the waiting time.

Yours sincerely

Robyn Kruk
Director General