



Dear Secretary

I refer to the advertisement of the Inquiry by the Select Committee on Regional Development.

I wish to make two points by way of submission to the Inquiry.

First, the Committee should identify the cost of services provided by the ACT to surrounding regions in NSW, and the amounts received by the ACT for those services. There are clearly large subsidies by the ACT to NSW, notably in the areas of education and health. The attached letter shows the scale of those subsidies.

Second, the Committee should consider whether the ACT ought to cease providing services to NSW unless there is full cost recovery. Why should ACT ratepayers subsidise health care or education for NSW residents?

Yours sincerely
Stephen Brown.

Transborder issues

Perhaps it is encouraging that "ACT, NSW agree to new era of co-operation on cross-border issues" (September 28, p3), but Canberrans are still being

dudded in this relationship. The ACT health system costs more than \$900 million a year, but we receive less than \$90 million from NSW for the 30 per cent of patients who are NSW residents. Similarly, the 5000 NSW students in ACT schools cost us \$31 million a year but we receive adjustment funding of just \$12 million ("Education loses \$19m to border cross: Barr", August 10, p3). No doubt there is some health funding adjustment also buried in the dark recesses of Commonwealth grants. However, the fact is that the ACT provides a very large subsidy to NSW. The transborder cuddle is more like a grizzly bear hug.

S. Brown, Forrest.

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