



Zed Seselja MLA

Australian Capital Territory

Leader of the Opposition

Member for Molonglo

Shadow Minister for Planning

Shadow Minister for Housing Affordability

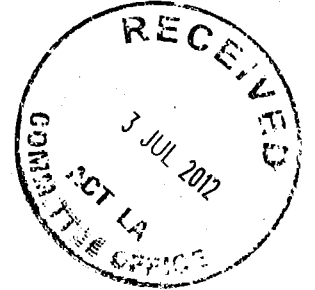
Shadow Minister for Transport Planning

Shadow Minister for Ageing

Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Shadow Minister for Human Rights

3 July 2012



Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA
Chair
Select Committee on Estimates 2012-2013
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Bresnan

I refer to the massive deception perpetrated on the people of Canberra through the manipulation of emergency department figures in the ACT's hospital system. I refer also to \$800,000 of Commonwealth funding to the ACT for its health system that now may be at risk as a result of this manipulation.

In that context I note:

- the ACT Auditor-General's Report 6/2012 titled "Emergency Department Performance Information", released today; and
- PWC's summary report of 29 June 2012 titled "ACT Health Directorate Emergency Department Information System Data Integrity".

These reports reveal systemic flaws in policy, procedures, process and governance.

Given the health portfolio is the single largest element of the government's budget, these reports seriously undermine the integrity of the budget process. To allow the examination of such a large part of the budget to remain incomplete brings the entire rationale of the Estimates process into serious doubt.

In particular, the 2012-13 budget was unable to report the estimated outcomes for 2011-12 of the "proportion of emergency department presentations that are treated within clinically appropriate timelines" because the figures were the subject of a "formal investigation" [Strategic Indicator 17, BP4, p63].

In view of the seriousness of these reports and their impact on the system of government in the Territory, I ask that your Committee recall the Minister for Health to give evidence at a Committee hearing to be convened as a matter of urgency. Sufficient time should be set aside to enable members to examine the matters raised in these reports in detail and to their satisfaction.

Yours sincerely



Zed Seselja MLA