Mrs Giulia Jones MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mrs Jones

I refer to the Scrutiny Report No 9 of 5 September 2017 in which the Committee noted that, while the “old” and the “new” fees are identified for the items in Attachment C to the explanatory statement of Disallowable Instrument DI2017-193, neither the instrument nor the explanatory statement identified the “other factors” that are relevant to the fees increases in Attachment C. The fees in Attachment C are:

Hospital Accommodation Fees – Nursing Home Type Patients

1. Hospital patient
2. Private patient

Hostel Fees

1. Hostel Accommodation Fees

I offer the following in response to the matters raised by the Committee.

Whilst in previous instruments “other factors” can be attributed to a variety of reasons, in the instance of this instrument all increases are in line with indexation applied to the Commonwealth Pension and Rental Assistance Rates.

The Commonwealth increase Pension and Rental Assistance rates twice a year in March and September respectively, the ACT Nursing Home Type Patients and Hostel accommodation fees combines these two increases and adjusts the related fees in July of each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee’s comments.

Yours sincerely

Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing