



**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Health**

The Hon Sharon Bird MP
Member for Cunningham
Parliamentary Secretary for Higher
Education and Skills
PO Box 387
WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Dear Parliamentary Secretary *Sharon*

Thank you for your representations of 13 July 2012 on behalf of the Save Bulli ED Group, regarding smaller hospital emergency departments.

I appreciate Save Bulli ED Group's concerns and note your request for Commonwealth Government advice on the matter.

Under the National Health Reform Agreement, the Commonwealth Government is working in partnership with state and territory governments to improve health outcomes for all Australians and ensure the sustainability of the Australian health system.

A major element of the National Health Reform Agreement is the implementation of activity based funding. However, it is recognised by governments that activity based funding is not practicable for all public hospitals, such as hospitals that see a low volume of patients. These public hospitals are eligible for funding on a block grant basis.

In the block funding arrangements that have been agreed between the Commonwealth Government and New South Wales for 2012-13, Bulli is eligible for block funding. From 2013-14, the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority will be responsible for developing the criteria used for determining eligibility for block funding.

As you note in your letter, whilst the Commonwealth is working with New South Wales to improve its public hospitals, hospital service planning remains the responsibility of the New South Wales Government. You may wish to raise this issue with the New South Wales Minister for Health, the Hon Jillian Skinner MP.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Plibersek

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6.9.12

they did a terrific job!

*PS - I had to visit
Bulli hospital myself
with Anna as a
toddler when we
were on holidays
down your way.*