



The Hon Shayne Neumann MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing

02 MAY 2013

Thank you for your letter of 16 March 2013 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, regarding funding for operations carried out by Professor Morris at St George Hospital. As Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, the Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

I am sorry to learn of the wait some of Professor Morris' patients are experiencing, and the potential impact that cuts to his operating time have on them and their families. I would like to assure you that Minister Plibersek understands the difficulties and worry that patients and their families can face whilst waiting for important surgery and also the concern this causes the treating clinicians on their behalf.

The Australian Government is aware that some patients are waiting longer than the clinically recommended time to receive surgery, and has committed to long-term reform to achieve improved, equitable and lasting health care for all Australians. The Government is investing \$1.1 billion in New South Wales to improve public hospital services, with up to \$209 million specifically to reduce elective surgery waiting times so that within three years all elective surgery patients will be seen within clinically recommended times.

Although the Commonwealth works closely with states and territories, the day-to-day administration of hospitals, including funding for operating time, remains the responsibility of state and territory governments. I would encourage you to draw this issue to the attention of the New South Wales Minister for Health, the Hon Jillian Skinner MP. Minister Skinner can be contacted by writing to:

The Hon Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Level 31
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

I trust that the above information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Shayne Neumann