

ST GEORGE HOSPITAL PERITONECTOMY CANCER SURGERY

Ms CHERIE BURTON: My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Why has the Minister reduced the number of bowel cancer surgeries carried out at St George Hospital, which has resulted in patients, such as Gillian Staley who has bowel cancer, having their lifesaving operation postponed?

Mrs JILLIAN SKINNER: The member is referring to peritonectomy, which was the subject of an article in the weekend newspaper. Peritonectomy services are provided in Brisbane, Sydney's St George Hospital and one other hospital in the country. Currently, St George Hospital is funded to undertake 72 such procedures a year, which is more than the number of New South Wales patients who need such a procedure. In other words, we are funding patients from other States. The St George Hospital Clinical Council executive is constantly monitoring this matter and managing the allocation of surgeries on the hospital's surgical list. It is a local decision that was made with input from local clinicians. This statewide service is funded to provide the number of operations needed to meet the demands of New South Wales. The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District received \$46 million in growth funding in the last budget, bringing total funding to \$1.4 billion. This matter is being considered by the local health district, in which I have great confidence.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Macquarie Fields of my earlier ruling and warn him that this is his final caution.

Mrs JILLIAN SKINNER: The member has been very helpful in working with us in trying to advance the infrastructure development of the St George Hospital Emergency Department, for which I am grateful. Therefore, I will be happy to provide her with whatever extra information I can, but that is my present advice. |

