



Media Release

The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Federal Member for Flinders
Shadow Minister for Climate Action,
Environment and Heritage

Thursday, 20 December 2012

Peninsula Health Funding Cuts Incompetent and Irresponsible

The Federal Government has shown callous disregard for the health of peninsula residents by ripping \$4.8 million from Peninsula Health's budget in the middle of the financial year.

Cutting Peninsula Health's budget mid-way through the fiscal year when budgets have already been set is incompetent and irresponsible.

I have today spoken to the Chair of the Peninsula Health Board, Nancy Hogan, who has confirmed that the Board will be forced to cut \$4.8million over the remainder of the year.

The Board is doing a wonderful job in ensuring that high quality patient services continue. However, the stress on doctors, nurses, administrators and staff will be extreme. This sort of cut is surely not sustainable in the long term.

I call on the Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek to stop this attack on Victorian hospital and health services.

This is unjustifiable and vindictive political abuse that has real ramifications for the most vulnerable, who rely on our hospital services.

Like many families on the Peninsula, we have deep links to the different parts of the Peninsula Health service, in our case over three generations.

My mother was a nurse at Frankston, I was born at Frankston Hospital and my daughter has previously been admitted to Rosebud Hospital.

Peninsula residents, nurses, doctors and hospital staff deserve better than this shabby treatment from the Federal Government.

The Health Minister should give local families a much overdue Christmas present and restore the \$4.8 million that it has ripped from our local hospitals.