



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

19 April 2012

TOMORROW'S HEALTH INQUIRY HEARING CANCELLED

The Treasurer has written today to the Sub-Committee inquiring into the cost reduction strategies of the Department of Health and Human Services, informing it that she has advised the Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance, Mr Martin Wallace, not to appear before its hearing tomorrow, 20 April 2012.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, today said that she was disappointed and frustrated that the Treasurer had intervened the day before the hearing was scheduled to take place, despite Mr Wallace having previously confirmed his availability and willingness to attend.

'I am very concerned that the Treasurer has intervened in relation to this hearing, delaying the work of the Sub-Committee, and advising that it should in the first instance consider a forthcoming written response from the Secretary and use the Budget Estimates Committee process, before the Secretary would make himself available to attend any further hearing.'

Ms Forrest said that she would be writing to the Treasurer to express the Sub-Committee's concerns in relation to the cancellation of the hearing particularly as the current Health Inquiry is a separate process from the annual Budget Estimates hearings.

'The Sub-Committee has been seeking a range of important information from the Department of Treasury and Finance since their appearance before the Inquiry in December 2011 which has been the subject of ongoing communications between the Sub-Committee and the Department of Treasury and Finance,' she said.

'The last minute intervention of the Treasurer will further delay the important work of this Sub-Committee.'

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ruth Forrest MLC on 0419 879 524