



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

26 October 2011

THE COST REDUCTION STRATEGIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UNDER SCRUTINY

The cost reduction strategies identified by the Department of Health and Human Services under their 'List of Savings Strategies' that was released on 4 October 2011 is to come under scrutiny by a Legislative Council Committee inquiry.

Independent Member for Murchison, Ruth Forrest MLC, who will chair the inquiry, said today that a Sub-Committee of the Government Administration Committee would examine the savings strategies identified by the Department with a particular focus on the cuts that have been announced to acute and other front line services within the three Area Health Services.

'Members of the Committee are concerned about the cuts to front line services as part of the savings strategy and in particular the announcement by the Minister for Health of \$21.5 million in savings for elective surgery through a reduction in volumes'.

'Members of the Committee are very concerned about the identification and prioritization of savings by the Department under the strategy, the impact on the community and the effect on the long term delivery of health services in Tasmania'.

'The Inquiry will receive a range of evidence including from stakeholders that have not been consulted in relation to the savings strategies'.

The 'List of Savings Strategies' document can be located at the following link:

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/81140/List_of_Savings_Strategies_Oct_Final.pdf

ends

MEDIA NOTE: Inquiry Terms of Reference are attached.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Ruth Forrest MLC on 0419 879 524



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Government Administration Committee “A”

Sub-Committee Inquiry into

The Cost Reduction Strategies of the Department of Health and Human Services

Terms of Reference

In accordance with Sessional Order 4 (13) Government Administration Committee A has this day resolved to initiate an inquiry on the following Terms of Reference:

- To inquire into and report upon the cost reduction strategies identified by the Department of Health and Human Services under their 'List of Savings Strategies' document of 4 October 2011, following the release of the 2011-12 Government Budget Papers, with particular reference to those strategies that may impact upon the delivery of acute and other front line health services within the three Area Health Services of the Department into the future.

DATE: 26 October 2011

**HON. Ruth Forrest MLC
COMMITTEE AND INQUIRY CHAIR**