



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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JIM MCGINTY NEEDS TO MAKE SUBMISSION TO SENATE INQUIRY

WA Liberal Senator Mathias Cormann has called on Health Minister Jim McGinty to make a formal submission and give evidence to the Senate inquiry into the proposed Medicare levy surcharge change and its impact on public hospitals.

“Western Australia is set to miss out on \$270 million in funding for hospital treatment as a result of the Federal Government’s proposed increases in the Medicare levy surcharge thresholds,” Senator Cormann said.

“The Senate Committee will be coming to Perth to listen first hand to the evidence about the tsunami of additional demand expected to hit public hospitals as a result of this measure.

“Mr McGinty has already conceded that this change will put additional pressure on our public hospitals in Western Australia.

“He also now understands that there will be no automatic increase in funding under the Australian Health Care agreement as he first suggested when the federal budget measure was announced.

“Mr McGinty needs to tell us how much additional pressure Western Australian public hospitals are expected to face as a result of this measure and how much it will cost.

“The Tasmanian Government has taken the impact on its public hospitals into account already in its budget papers.

“Western Australia does not appear to have done any formal costings yet.

Senator Cormann has written to both Jim McGinty and Eric Ripper last week urging them to ask for access to the Federal Government’s modelling to enable a proper assessment by the Western Australian Government of the impact on its public hospitals.

“The State Government needs to work with Coalition Senators to ensure that WA public hospitals will not end up getting swamped by additional demand they cannot possibly meet as a result of an ill-thought out federal budget measure.

“The State Government needs to urgently cost the impact of the Medicare Levy Surcharge change on our public hospitals.

“Once that is done they need to either ask for additional funding from the Commonwealth or call on the Federal Labor Government to reconsider this short sighted measure,” Senator Cormann said.

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