

21 October 2019

The Honourable Sue Hickey MP
Speaker
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Issued by email only

Dear Madam Speaker

FOUR CORNERS INTERVIEW – CLARIFICATION OF AUDITOR-GENERAL COMMENT

In reference to my letter of 19 September 2019 clarifying a statement made by me during the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* broadcast of a Four Corners program titled *Health Hazard*, I would like to clearly correct my statement.

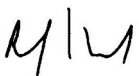
The program included an extract of a statement made by me relating to the length of stay for admitted patients in the Launceston General Hospital emergency department. The aired statement made by me was:

‘9 out of 10 admitted patients in Launceston were spending close to 40 hours in the emergency department’.

My statement provided an incorrect view of the performance of the Launceston General Hospital and I retract the statement. For clarification I advise, for 2014-15, by approximately 40 hours, 9 out of 10 patients treated and admitted to the Launceston General Hospital had departed the emergency department.

I respectfully request this clarification be placed on the public record. This clarification will also be published on my Office’s website www.audit.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rod Whitehead
Auditor-General

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Copy for:

Mr Shane Donnelly
Clerk of the House of Assembly

The Honourable Sarah Courtney, MP
Minister for Health

The Honourable, Dr Rosalie Woodruff, MP
Tasmanian Greens

The Honourable Sarah Lovell, MLC
Shadow Minister for Health