



Shadow Minister for Health

Mr Grant Hehir
Auditor General
Australian National Audit Office
GPO Box 707
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Hehir

Investigation into withdrawal of funding for Wangaratta Hospital

I refer to comments made by Ms Sophie Mirabella during a town hall meeting yesterday, Thursday 21 April 2016, in relation to depriving Wangaratta Hospital of \$10 million of Federal Government funding, seemingly as an act of Liberal Party political retribution.

During the meeting, which was televised by Sky News, Ms Mirabella revealed the Liberal Government declined to provide Wangaratta Hospital \$10 million in Federal funds because the people of Indi failed to elect a Liberal candidate at the 2013 election:

*I'm really pleased to get this question because it's an opportunity for the people of Indi and Wangaratta to compare and contrast on facts. Brendan as you know I had had a commitment for a \$10 million allocation to the Wangaratta Hospital that if elected I was going to announce the week after the election, you know that, **that is \$10 million that Wangaratta hasn't had because Cathy got elected.***

Ms Mirabella is a former Member for Indi who lost her seat to Ms Cathy McGowan, an independent. Ms Mirabella is standing once again in at the upcoming Federal election.

Punishing the people of Indi for electing an independent MP is not legitimate grounds on which to base decisions about the expenditure of a significant sum of taxpayer money.

I ask you to investigate this troubling matter and report your findings to the Parliament at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Catherine King'.

Catherine King MP