



NEW ZEALAND PRIVATE SURGICAL HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION INC

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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE

A BALANCED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FOR NEW ZEALAND - PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WORKING TOGETHER CO-OPERATIVELY AND COLLABORATIVELY

Members of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association (NZPSHA) appeared before the Health Select Committee at Parliament today to brief the Committee on smarter use of the private hospital sector in New Zealand.

The NZPSHA believes it is time for all New Zealanders to become aware that they must take greater personal responsibility for their healthcare needs and it should be clearly communicated that no government will ever be in a position to fund all of their healthcare needs. It is time for honest dialogue aimed at helping New Zealanders better appreciate what healthcare services they can and cannot expect to have publicly funded.

NZPSHA President Terry Moore told the Select Committee, “even the most optimistic future health expenditure models record a looming funding crisis. It is in New Zealand’s best interest to have a strong, viable and sustainable private hospital sector to complement the services provided by public hospitals”.

The NZPSHA promotes excellence in healthcare and its members provide procedures for approximately 152,000 patients every year, representing around 60% of all elective surgery performed in New Zealand. This proportion of elective surgery is growing in response to the increasing needs of New Zealand’s ageing population and the constraints on the ability of the public sector to meet those needs.

The Association supports the notion of a ‘balanced healthcare system’ where the public and private sector work co-operatively alongside each other to meet the healthcare needs of New Zealanders. Mr Moore said, “we see this co-operation extending beyond the provision of publicly funded elective surgery in private facilities, across an increasing scope of services (e.g. radiation oncology and maternity) and into areas such as workforce training.

“The notion of a balanced healthcare system is a significant issue which extends far beyond simply providing private hospitals with increased opportunities to provide publicly funded elective surgery”, he said.

“We believe it is one of the most important initiatives that the Government should now be taking. New Zealand needs a strong private hospital sector to ensure New Zealanders healthcare needs are met. This should be publicly acknowledged. All New Zealanders should be encouraged to have the funding opportunities available to them such as health insurance, to ensure they can access the healthcare services they need”.

Media Release Ends

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