

AUSTRALIAN GREENS – Media Release
Senator Rachel Siewert



Health agreement essential for WA hospitals: Greens

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The Australian Greens are calling on the Prime Minister Julia Gillard to step in and resolve the dispute over health funding for WA under the National Health and Hospitals Network Package.

“Western Australians want the Federal and West Australian governments to end their blame game and reach an agreement on the National Health and Hospitals Network Package,” Australian Greens Health Spokesperson Senator Rachel Siewert said today.

As highlighted during May budget estimates WA risks missing out on \$350 million in funding measures which will only be paid to states who have signed on to the health and hospitals reforms.

Senator Siewert says the political bickering between the state and federal governments threatens health outcomes for Western Australians.

“All we’re hearing are the same arguments and claims being made over and over again from both sides. That isn’t leadership and it isn’t negotiation,” said Senator Siewert.

“We need the Prime Minister to step in and take the lead on this issue and broker an acceptable outcome that sees this much needed funding going to the aid of the people of WA.

“This additional funding will help alleviate the massive burden on our health system and benefit some of our most critical services, including emergency departments and sub-acute care programs.

“It is unfair for the sick and vulnerable members of our community to be disadvantaged because a resolution on this issue can’t be reached,” Senator Siewert concluded.

Media Contact: Chris Redman 0418 401 180



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