

electronic records still do not match. Comcare also provided incorrect information to the Department of Finance and Deregulation, stating that Barry had received \$1 million in entitlements, was paid \$50,000 a year, and that there was no underpayment, amongst other incorrect statements.

This incorrect information was later used as the basis to refuse five Act of Grace payment applications from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Barry is still fighting to receive the compensation he is owed, including \$233,750 of interest on his back payment.

Barry, and others like him, has only one avenue for seeking compensation from organisations such as Comcare, which are not covered by the CDDA Scheme that applies to Financial Management and Accountability Act.

Under section 73 of the Public Service Act 1999, an agency can make discretionary payments in special circumstances.

The subsection this Bill seeks to remove is the one that limits the payments to \$100,000.

If there is no other mechanism in place to deal with compensation claims for agencies that fall outside the CDDA Scheme, then we need to ensure that fair payments can be made through other means.

In 2010, the Commonwealth Ombudsman recommended that a scheme similar to the CDDA Scheme be put in place.

We are still waiting to see if this will happen.

But people like Barry, people who may only just be beginning their own battle for compensation, deserve justice.

They shouldn't have to wait any longer.

**Senator XENOPHON:** I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

## MOTIONS

### Community Hospitals

**Senator BIRMINGHAM** (South Australia) (11:56): I, and also on behalf of Senators Ferguson, Bernardi, Birmingham, Fisher, Minchin and Xenophon, move:

That the Senate—

(a) recognises the important role that community hospitals play in the lives of regional communities and in providing early access to care for life threatening conditions and trauma;

(b) condemns the South Australian Government for deciding in its 2010 State Budget to cut funding to three community hospitals in regional areas;

(c) recognises the critical role that the Keith and District Hospital Inc., Moonta Health and Aged Care Service Inc. and the Ardrossan Community Hospital Inc. play in the lives of those living and travelling in regional South Australia; and

(d) calls on the Government to:

(i) reduce the National Healthcare Specific Purpose Payment to the South Australian Government by \$1 046 000 in the 2011-12 financial year,

(ii) index the above amount by the growth factor contained in Schedule D of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations,

(iii) make a direct financial transfer to the Keith and District Hospital Inc. of \$600 000 and annually index this amount by the growth factor contained in the Intergovernmental Agreement,

(iv) make a direct financial transfer to the Moonta Health and Aged Care Service Inc. of \$300 000 and annually index this amount by the growth factor contained in the Intergovernmental Agreement, and

(v) make a direct financial transfer to the Ardrossan Community Hospital Inc. of \$146 000 and annually index this amount by the growth factor contained in the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Question agreed to.

### Alcohol Pricing

**Senator SIEWERT** (Western Australia—Australian Greens Whip) (11:57): I move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes with concern decisions by major retailers to heavily discount alcohol as a 'loss leader' to increase market share, with beer and wine being sold below the wholesale price so that it is now often cheaper than bottled water;

(b) draws attention to research that demonstrates that young people, disadvantaged groups and risky drinkers are highly sensitive to the price of alcohol;

(c) raises concern at the number of serious incidents of alcohol-related violence leading to death, permanent disability or disfigurement in recent weeks;

(d) notes:

(i) that alcohol impacts not only on individuals but on the wider community, and

(ii) the high cost of alcohol-related harm to the community, conservatively estimated for the 2004-05 financial year at more than \$15 billion per year; and

(e) calls on:

(i) these retailers to end their cheap alcohol promotions in the interest of public health and safety, and

(ii) the Government to consider introducing a floor price for alcohol.

Question negatived.

### Cluster Bombs

**Senator LUDLAM** (Western Australia) (11:57): I seek leave to amend general business notice of motion No. 246 standing in my name for today relating to cluster munitions.

Leave granted.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I move the motion as amended:

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) cluster munitions are one of the most inhumane forms of weapons from a humanitarian, medical and ethical perspective,