

CATHERINE KING MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

MEDIA RELEASE

## COALITION BACKFLIP ON CUTS TO HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Minister Dutton's repeated promise that no money will be cut from health is proving as hollow as the Coalition's promise of a 'unity ticket' on education.

Minister Dutton confirmed in Question Time today that cuts will be made in health to fund the Coalition's election promises.

When asked when funding will be delivered to honour the Coalition's election commitment to provide the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation with \$35 million, Mr Dutton had the following to say:

"They (Labor) built up those great big new bureaucracies, we are taking money from that and putting it into clinical trials."

This raises serious questions about what other cuts will be made in health to fund the hundreds of millions of dollars in election commitments the Coalition made. It was revealed last week that the Coalition's Commission of Cuts is targeting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme with some medicines being viewed as "unaffordable across the long-term".

Today's slip by the Minister reveals that big cuts are planned for health despite freezing existing funding for internship places and \$10 million for an integrated cancer centre in Warrnambool.

This comes off the back of the Coalition cutting all funding for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council - an advisory and research body providing advice to governments since Menzies, a \$100 million cut from the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, and the abolition of the expert advisory panel on the marketing of infant formula.

This is not the Government they told the Australian people they would be.

TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2013  
MEDIA CONTACT: ALEXANDER WHITE 0488 134 359