

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Administration of Health Practitioner Registration by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

5 May 2011

Question no: 1

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY (AHPRA)

Hansard Page: 18 CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Did the Department provide advice to the Minister about funding for AHPRA agreed to at COAG in March 2008?

Answer:

Advice provided to the Minister in the context of AHMC briefs in July 2008 noted the COAG agreed allocation of \$19.8 M and that it was a combined total of \$12.3M for practitioner regulation and \$7.5M for accreditation reform agreed to by COAG in July 2006.

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Question no: 2

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY (AHPRA)

Hansard Page: 19 CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

There was \$19.8 Million provided by COAG, with \$9.9 Million from the Commonwealth. Was that sufficient resourcing for a change of this size?

Answer:

The resource allocation of \$19.8 Million over four years to undertake the process of change and operate AHPRA for the first 12 months was in addition to existing Commonwealth, State and Territory allocations, fees and contributions to existing professional registration and accreditation processes.

It was calculated based on the funding that had been previously identified for the separate development of a national health professional regulation function and a separate national accreditation function agreed to in July 2006 in line with the COAG response to the Productivity Commission 2006 report *Australia Health Workforce*.

As reflected in AHPRA's Annual Report, some additional funding was subsequently requested and approved from the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) and is not yet fully expended.

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Question no: 3

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY (AHPRA)

Hansard Page: 19 CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Given the history of planning, who determined the figure of \$19.8 Million and what role did the Department of Health and Ageing have in determining the Commonwealth's contribution of \$9.9Million?

Answer:

The allocation of \$19.8 Million over 4 years was determined by COAG following discussion between First Ministers (and senior officers as required) and derived from the amalgamation of the funding previously allocated by COAG to progress separate health practitioner regulatory (\$12.3M) and accreditation reform (\$7.5M) agreed to in July 2006 in line with the COAG response to the Productivity Commission 2006 report *Australia Health Workforce*. The Commonwealth contribution of \$9.9 Million (50% of the total) reflects established AHMAC cost sharing principles.

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Question no: 4

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY

Hansard Page: 24 CA

Senator Bishop asked:

[in reference to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council] Under what legislative authority is it established? ...how it is created and who it is responsible to?

Answer:

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) was established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008* following signing of and based on the agreement between First Ministers to the COAG Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) for the health professions (ref. IGA Item 7).

The functions of the Ministerial Council are also outlined in the National Law Sections 11-15.

The Ministerial Council consists of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Health Ministers who remain accountable to their respective Governments.