

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2-4 JUNE 2010

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

LINK TO ANSWERS RECEIVED FOR THE QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Note: Outcome 15 was transferred to the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio in the Administrative Arrangements Order dated 14.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
001		Barnett		How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
002	Whole		Temporary positions Contractors	What level are these staff?			
003	Whole			How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?		05.07.10	30.09.10
				Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?		05.07.10	30.09.10
004		Barnett	Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts	Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? - Since the efficiency dividend was introduced? - Since additional estimates? If so, where and at what level? Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
005				If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)		8.10.10	28.10.10
006				What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.		8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
007		Barnett	Government Advertising	<p>What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken?</p> <p>For each program, what is the total spend?</p> <p>(by 'communications program' it is meant communication of a government message to the public – possibly by advertising (print, television etc), possibly through the erection of signs, plaques etc, or through other mediums. The recent (current) Government TV advertising campaign on health reform and specific health initiatives are examples, BER signage is an example, advertising on the Government's proposed new tax system would be another example.)</p> <p>A breakdown of how much was spent/is planned to be spent on each program/initiative should be provided.</p>	28.05.10	18.10.10	28.10.10
008		Barnett	Hospitality	<p>What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?</p> <p>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p>	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
009				<p>For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.</p> <p>Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p>		8.10.10	28.10.10
010		Barnett	Board Appointments	<p>What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?</p> <p>What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since the Government came to office in November 2007?</p>	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
011						8.10.10	28.10.10
012	Whole	Barnett	Discretionary Grants	<p>Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?</p>	28.05.10	05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
013	Whole	Barnett	Freedom of Information requests	Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?	28.05.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
014				How many FOI requests has the Department received?		11.10.10	28.10.10
015				How many have been granted or denied?		11.10.10	28.10.10
016		Barnett	Community Cabinets	What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates?	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
017				How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?		8.10.10	28.10.10
				What was the total cost of this travel?			
				What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?			
018		Barnett	Reviews	What is the total number of Reviews <i>both completed and ongoing</i> in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
019				Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when those reviews were provided to Government, - estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and - if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review. How many reviews are ongoing? How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates? What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?		8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
020		Barnett	Consultancies	<p>How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).</p> <p>Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total <i>spending</i> on consultancies and also <i>value of contracts awarded</i>? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.</p>	28.05.10	8.10.10 (includes attachment)	28.10.10
021	Whole		Consultancies	<p>Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contacts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10
022				<p>How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</p> <p>All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.</p>		8.10.10 (includes attachment)	28.10.10
023		Barnett	Government Payment of Accounts	<p>Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)</p> <p>For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?</p> <p>Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</p>	28.05.10	8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
069		Birmingham	Buildings' energy efficiency	Please list every building occupied by the Department. For each building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken? 	07.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
039	3	Macdonald	Medicare payments	1. What are the statistics for Medicare payments for those people living in Remote Australia? 2. What is the definition of Remote Australia for the purposes of Health and Ageing?	02.06.10	23.09.10	30.09.10
038	4	Macdonald		1. What is the number of aged care places available in Remote Australia? 2. What is the definition of Remote Australia for the purposes of Aged Care and Population Ageing?	02.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
024	2	Heffernan	Memorandum of Understanding	<p><i>The Government has stated that it will save \$1.9 billion over five years as a result of the MoU released as part of the 2010 Commonwealth Budget on 11 May 2010 signed exclusively with Medicines Australia while ignoring other key industry stakeholders. The MoU spells out a number of initiatives to drive the savings as well as initiatives strategically important to MA that require Government expenditure.</i></p> <p>Question 1: What is the cost of implementing the MoU? What are the administrative costs of implementing the MoU and why are they not reflected in the Budget papers e.g. gathering data for price disclosure, analysing it and disseminating it to individual sponsors, audit activities, complaints resolution?</p> <p>Question 2: What is the veracity of the MoU if only savings have been costed and none of the expenditures required to implement the other initiatives are costed?</p>	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
025	2			<p><i>Clause 1 & 3: The MoU is between Commonwealth of Australia and Medicines Australia. The Commonwealth Department did not consult with other key stakeholders including the suppliers of generic medicines. The MoU further states that its intention is to promote the efficiency and sustainability of the PBS by the provision of a stable pricing environment and a viable and responsible medicines industry in Australia.</i></p>		05.07.10	30.09.10
026	2			<p>Question 3: The savings included in the forward estimates stemming from this MoU rely on the market entry and competition from generic medicines. How can the Department be sure that a MoU negotiated between the suppliers of patented medicines will support the viability of the generic medicines sector, the very sector required to introduce the new brands of these medicines to achieve the budget savings?</p> <p>Question 4: What initiatives has the Department put in place to ensure the continued market entry of generic medicines and the accompanying savings to the PBS that stem from competition of generic medicines? What evidence is there that a generic awareness campaign is an effective tool to support the viability of the generic medicines sector?</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
026 [contd]	2	Heffernan	Memorandu	<p>Question 5: This may mean that Australians will need to pay a higher price per unit of health outcome for a product on the F1 formulary as compared to a product on the F2 formulary. Where is this additional premium for a product that does not offer an improved health outcome that must be paid by the Australian tax payer included in the Budget?</p> <p><i>Clause 5: Confirms the Government's commitment to different price setting and maintenance mechanisms for products on the F1 and the F2 formularies.</i></p> <p>Question 5: This may mean that Australians will need to pay a higher price per unit of health outcome for a product on the F1 formulary as compared to a product on the F2 formulary. Where is this additional premium for a product that does not offer an improved health outcome that must be paid by the Australian tax payer included in the Budget?</p>	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
027	2	Heffernan	Memorandu	<p><i>Clause 7 - 9: The AMWG is a vehicle designed to monitor the implementation of the MoU, the impact on PBS expenditure, to provide a forum to alert the PBAC of potential high cost medicines and a forum for the exchange of detailed commercial data.</i></p> <p>Question 6: Why is the Department in dialogue with the patented sector of the industry in implementing an agreement designed to make significant Budget savings via reducing the cost of generic medicines? How can the Department t be certain that the generic medicines sector will be able to sustain these savings? Is there not a risk that the patented medicines sector is advising Department in the design of policy that will jeopardise the ability of the generic medicines sector to bring to market new generic medicines and thus remove competition from suppliers of generic medicines altogether – obviously a very good outcome if you are the original supplier of that medicine.</p>	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
028	2			<p><i>Clause 10: The MoU increases the percentage reduction applicable to the PBS list price at the time the second brand of a medicine, or typically the first generic brand of a medicine lists on the PBS from 12.5% to 16%.</i></p> <p>Question 7: The automatic reduction of the PBS list price upon PBS listing of the second brand is a significant deterrent to the supplier of generic medicines to challenge potentially invalid patents, an important check and balance in our market system. This is because of the potential damages that might be triggered. I understand that recently the Australian Courts found Patent AU 597784 pertaining to the medicine clopidogrel invalid. This has meant that generic brands of clopidogrel have been able to enter the Australian market in 2010, three years earlier than otherwise, representing a saving of approximately \$70 million to the PBS. How does the MoU address this additional market barrier and the other barriers imposed on suppliers of generic medicines seeking to challenge invalid patents and facilitate earlier market entry of generic medicines that create important savings to the PBS and the Budget? Have you estimated the impact of less patent challenges into the budget? What is the figure?</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
029	2	Heffernan	Memorandu	<p><i>Clause 13 - 15: The MoU strengthens the arrangements of the price disclosure policy. Under the MoU the number of items under the policy is expected to increase from 160 to 1,600 items.</i></p> <p>Question 8: Has the Department estimated the additional administrative cost required to administer the expanded price disclosure policy? Has the Department estimated the additional auditor fees required to verify the price disclosure reporting and calculations? How will the Department cope with the huge increase in products subjected to disclosure from 160 currently to some 1600? Problems with the administration of the 160 items have resulted in legal action and expenditure obviously with the order of magnitude increase in size and complexity problems and litigation may substantially increase, has the Department made an allowance for such expenditure and risk? Where is the cost of these items reflected in the Budget papers?</p>	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
030	2			<p>Question 9: The price reductions stemming from the original implementation of price disclosure were delayed due to administrative challenges. (Reference: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/95DCCB478B78DBD9CA2576C500130B0A/\$File/Impact%20of%20PBS%20Reform%20Report.pdf P 38) Can the Department assure the public that there will not be further administrative challenges in expanding the policy that will mean that the expected savings to the Budget cannot be implemented?</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10
031	2			<p>Question 10: Given their extensive product range, individual pricing and thousands of customers, price disclosure places a significant and possibly unmanageable administrative burden on suppliers of generic medicines. Why does the Department require the industry to collect data monthly when the Government will only report annually and why is first month data collected when it won't be used. How can the Department be confident that this significant additional administrative burden on the suppliers of generic medicines will not create a deterrent such that generic medicines do not list on the PBS and trigger the important price reductions to the PBS?</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10
032	2			<p>Question 10a: Have you considered collecting the data direct from pharmacies and consolidating these data in the Department to spread the administrative load?</p> <p>Question 11: As the price of 1600 F2 products will all reduce by at least an average of 23% on 1st April 2010 how will the Department (in 2010) prevent major destocking by Wholesalers and Pharmacists. How will the Department prevent major stock outs and disruption to the supply of essential and non-essential medicines to patients. What is the cost of ensuring security</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10
Budget Estimates June 2010				Dr H20 P16010 (last Department 2010)			9

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033	2	Heffernan	Memorandu	<p><i>Clause 16: The MoU provides an undertaking not to form any new Therapeutic Groups</i></p> <p>Question 12: Therapeutic Groups can play an important policy lever that has enabled Government historically to ensure that the PBS subsidised price of medicines are set at levels that reflect the health outcome delivered by the medicine. This issue is currently before the Senate Reference Committee for Community Affairs that has yet to deliver its findings on this important issue. Does this clause in the MoU therefore negate the work the Committee has done thus far and make its recommendations/findings yet to be handed down irrelevant?</p> <p>The inability of the Department to form Therapeutic Groups will weaken the Department/Government's ability to secure the best value of medicines, particularly in the F1 formulary. Responsible price setting of patented medicines is crucial to the sustainability of the PBS. The share of PBS receipts to the F1 formulary has increased by 35% over the last four financial years. It is patented products that will continue to drive future growth of PBS expenditure. Is the additional growth of the F1 formulary of the PBS included in the Budget estimates and what is the figure?</p>	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10

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034	2	Heffernan	Memorandu	<p><i>Clause 20: The MoU prevents the Commonwealth from introducing any measure that favours the prescribing or dispensing of generic brands over originator brands of the same medicine.</i></p> <p>Question 13: Savings to the PBS from the MoU are predicated on continual and predictable market entry of generic medicines that are cheaper than originator medicines and therefore will result in significant cost savings to the Commonwealth. Yet clause 20 precludes the Commonwealth from introducing any new financial measure that will stimulate generic substitution. What is the opportunity cost to the Budget of this measure is this included in the budget estimates and what is the figure?</p>	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
035				<p><i>Clauses 5, 16, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 29</i></p> <p><i>These clauses facilitate the earlier entry of new medicines onto the PBS at a higher price, for example different price setting mechanisms for the F1 formulary, reducing the time taken for listing of new medicines by parallel PBAC /TGA approval processes, shortened Cabinet approval time and accelerated pricing negotiations. These initiatives will increase the cost of the F1 formulary of the PBS.</i></p> <p>Question 14: Where is the additional cost to the PBS of these initiatives costs in the forward estimates? What is the current growth rate of the F1 formulary of the PBS? What initiatives are in place to control the growth of the F1 formulary?</p>		8.10.10	28.10.10

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036	2	Heffernan	MonthlyPBS	Question 15: On how many occasions per annum can a new generic medicine that triggers a price reduction list on the PBS?	02.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
037	2			Question 15a: How regularly is the PBS schedule updated? Question 15b: So if a medicine comes off patent in May, it must wait until 1 August before it can be listed on the PBS? I understand that the patent on atorvastatin expires in May 2012. So under current regulation, the first additional brand of atorvastatin will be listed at the earliest on the PBS on 1 August 2012. I understand that the average monthly cost of atorvastatin, a commonly prescribed cholesterol lowering medicine, is \$52 million. The proposed mandatory price cut of 16% represents a saving to the Commonwealth of \$8.4m per month. Thus, if atorvastatin were to be PBS listed on 1 June 2012, rather than on 1 August 2012 as will occur under current regulation, the Commonwealth will save \$16.8 million on one item alone. I understand over 200 products will lose their patents over the next 5 years. Why has the Department not negotiated monthly listings on the PBS in the MoU? What is the cost of not including this measure?		05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
040		Abetz		Does the Health Reform package agreed to at COAG on the 20th April legally constitute a “deal”?	02.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
041				Is it correct that the intergovernmental agreement on GST needs to be amended to give effect to the COAG health reforms?		8.10.10	28.10.10
042				Has the Department sought legal advice on this matter? If so, what was the cost of this legal advice? Please detail all meetings between		8.10.10	28.10.10
043				The Minister and representatives of the West Australian Government Departmental officials and West Australian departmental officials On the Health Reform package since COAG meet on the 20th April. In regards to the agreement as it affects Tasmania:- How many new hospital beds will be provided, and in which years? What is the net financial benefit to Tasmania of the agreement, per year, from 2010-11 through the forward estimates and projections? How many Local Area Networks does the Government propose for Tasmania?		19.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
044	4	Xenophon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What plans does the Government have to renegotiate the National Action Framework on Dementia with State and Territory Health Ministers? 	03.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
045				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the total of funding that will be allocated under the Dementia Initiative in 2010/11 and how will it be allocated? 		15.10.10	28.10.10
046				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Minister now release the overview of the evaluation of the Dementia Initiative and the individual evaluative reports on which it is based? 		12.10.10	28.10.10
047				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the major economic impacts of dementia on national budgets arising from the rapidly increasing incidence of dementia in Australia, will the Government commit to the inclusion of dementia risk reduction within its national preventative health strategy? Would the Minister agree that health prevention programs should inform Australians that they may benefit both physical and brain health? <p>Is the Mind your Mind program being funded through the Dementia Initiative in 2010/2011? If so, to what extent and in what form?</p>		19.10.10	28.10.10

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338	9	Abetz		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did the department become aware of the existence of Joint Research? • When did the department raise the issue of conflict of interest with the private health insurers represented on the Prostheses and Devices Committee? • What steps has the department taken to address the issue of conflict of interest? • Has the Minister been made aware of the existence of Joint Research and the investment in Joint Research by private health insurance companies, including Medibank Private? • Has the Minister given any directions to Medibank Private on this matter? Has there been any correspondence on the matter? Can the correspondence be tabled? • What directions have been given to the negotiators involved in the benefit setting process? • Given the conflict of interest of the benefit negotiators, how is the continued participation of the negotiators in the benefit negotiation process justifiable or sustainable? 	03.06.10	18.10.10	28.10.10

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048		Hanson-Young		<p>In February estimates, the Department mentioned that it was in discussion with advocates about how best to address concerns about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI) in aged care, and that at that time there was no specific funding initiative to address this issue. Specifically issues around relating to both services at home, as well as services in an aged care facility.</p> <p>1. Can you advise if there has been any further discussion on this matter and if any funds have been allocated to address the concerns raised?</p> <p>2. To clarify, are these initiatives and funds being considered for both at home care <i>and</i> as they relate to residential aged care facilities?</p>	03.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
049				<p>The Department also mentioned that they did not believe there had any complaints in Aged Care on specific issues relating to someone's sexual orientation or gender identity.</p> <p>In the report by Associate Professor Merrilyn Walton titled "Review of the aged care complaints investigation scheme", she notes that a number of submissions to that inquiry raised concerns that LGBTI people were invisible in that there was a "reluctance to complain because they may be required to disclose their non-heterosexual identity or the same sex relationship for fear of victimization.[Page 32, Review of the Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme, Assoc. Prof. Merilyn Walton (http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-review-cis.htm)]</p> <p>What, if any, activities is the department doing to address this issue raised?</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10
050	13	Siewert	Tamworth Base Hospital	<p>Tamworth Base Hospital's Nioka Palliative Care ward</p> <p>1. Is the department still planning on demolishing and downsizing the current Nioka Palliative Care ward at the Tamworth Hospital Campus?</p>	04.06.10	13.07.10	30.09.10

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051	11	Siewert		<p>1. For the purpose of forward estimates planning, what is the definition adopted by Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Healthcare • Primary healthcare • Community Mental Health services • Mental health • Mental disorder • Mental illness • Health workforce 	04.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
052				<p>2. What measures of health care are applied to primary and preventive health care services, community mental health, mental health prevention and rural and remote health services, for the purpose of BAi, MBS and ATAPS program development.</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10
053				<p>3. What are the specific objectives of DoHA primary and preventive health care services? What standards and measure of efficacy and adequacy of provision have been applied in the development of those services;</p> <p>(a.) Over the period of the introduction of BAi and other health care services.</p> <p>(b.) The measures of efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed expenditure on mental health in the forward estimate projections for the period 2010-2016.</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10
054				<p>4. What reports have been received in relation to the review of the BAi including the KPMG interviews in respect of the services of Counsellors and Psychotherapists? When will these reports be made available for public and community consideration.</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10
055				<p>5. Is DoHA aware of the recommendations of the NSW Deputy Coroner to the Honourable Carmel Tebbutt MP, NSW Minister for Health seeking registration of Counsellors and Psychotherapists in the interest of public safety. What action is the Department taking to implement these findings?</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10
056				<p>6. Has the Department (and the Minister) received proposals for substantial savings to taxpayer funded services through the inclusion of registered members of Australian Counselling Association and/or PACFA? If so what was the modelling and savings response and what models of savings have been undertaken in respect of early intervention and provision of primary care, especially to rural and remote areas and low levels of social inclusion?</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10

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057	13	Siewert		In terms of case mix funding:		04.06.10	28.10.10
058	13		Local hospital networks	1. Who will pay the gap between the efficient price (60%) and the actual cost?		11.10.10	28.10.10
059				2. Will we see hospital networks being taken over by Federal bureaucrats if they don't meet targets? Will they be closed down? Will networks be allowed to merge with each other to achieve greater efficiencies and if so, how will that impact on responding to local need?		18.08.10	30.09.10
				3. In terms of setting up the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority		19.10.10	28.10.10
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the setting of an efficient price for Commonwealth contribution be subject to a review? • Will block funding arrangements be subject to a review? • If the IHPA can make binding determinations about cost shifting and cross border issues in health and hospital system – what does this mean? • Can it penalise providers? Can it impose on providers to offer a service interstate? 			
060	10		Aust Commission on Safety & Quality	4. New permanent Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in health care		23.09.10	30.09.10
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the standards set be subject to a review? • Will it report on performance across both primary care and public hospitals – will there be penalties for underperforming? 			
061	1	Siewert	Medicines policy	Medicines Policy	04.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
				1. I noted the recent announcement that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing will become the ultimate decision-maker on scheduling of medicines and chemicals in Australia. Why has this change been made?			
062	1		Medicines policy	2. Should the Australian public be concerned that the TGA's power is being restricted when the TGA arguably are the experts on medicines scheduling?		05.07.10	30.09.10

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063	3	Siewert	Medicare payments	MBS Review 1. The Australian Rheumatology Association (in consultation with Arthritis Australia) has submitted an application for new MBS Items for joint injections. The Department has previously indicated it was hoping to make a decision in the next couple of months. That period has now passed. What progress can you report on this new application?	04.06.10	23.09.10	30.09.10
064	5	Siewert	Medicare Locals	1. Will Medicare Locals be focused on GPs and hospitals only? 2. How will Medicare Locals know the needs in their area? 3. What kind of staffing requirements will this involve? 4. Will consumers have any involvement?	04.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
065	11	Siewert		1. Can the Department please provide figures for gap fees for general and clinical psychologists in the Better Access scheme? Also, could you provide figures for the actual current rebates for social workers, psychologists and clinical psychologists (for a general 50 min consultation)?	04.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
066				2. In terms of the evaluation of Better Access can the Department tell me whether patients of social workers and Occupational Therapists will be part of the MBS evaluation and if there are to be any comparisons between the patient outcomes being achieved by psychologists, clinical psychologists, social workers and Occupational Therapists given all are working with patients who have to satisfy the same eligibility within the mental health Better Access program?		12.10.10	28.10.10
067				3. Is it correct that the recruitment process now being implemented is to ask psychologists who are participating in the evaluation to recruit all the participants directly themselves?		12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
068	FSANZ	Siewert		<p>FSANZ</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is FSANZ confident that Monsanto is meeting compliance with Good Laboratory Practice? 2. Who wrote the ANZFA GM canola assessment documents, and who signed off on them? 3. Was apparently non-compliance evidence overlooked and why did were obviously inappropriate in-house assessment methodologies ignored? 4. Is it true that the approvals at the US FDA, US EPA, Canada, Europe, Japan, have been based on the same Monsanto material? 5. It is reported that GM crops are moved out of the USA and into world markets via a web of 'food approval' bodies established for this purpose, have you heard of these reports? If so, have you investigated these reports? 	04.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
070	TGA	Siewert		1. Members of the public are often confused about the level of regulation and approval for items on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. Why doesn't the TGA play a greater role informing the public about its role and its limitations so that people are aware that not every product on the market is subject to regulation?	04.06.10	11.10.10	28.10.10
071				2. Why is the most recent corporate plan on the TGA's website for the period 2006-08? Why is the most recent business plan from 2008-09? Have up-to-date plans been developed, and if so why are they not publicly available?		8.10.10	28.10.10
072				3. The TGA's website is overly complex and bureaucratic in language and presentation, and contains too much information that is dated or hard to find. Members of the public have significant difficulty finding information on the site. I understand that a review of the website is currently underway. Please advise the level of funding that has been allocated to the website review, and whether there will be major restructuring to make the website useable?		11.10.10	28.10.10
073				4. Does the TGA have the organisational capacity to manage its increased responsibilities? I'm told that the TGA administers around the same number of items on the ARTG as is registered by the Food and Drug Administration in the US, but the FDA has 17,000 staff while the TGA has only 500. Can the Australian public be confident in the ability of the TGA to manage its responsibilities and protect the safety of Australians?		8.10.10	28.10.10
074	1	Siewert	Adverse events	1. What proportion of adverse event reports are made by the general public?	04.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
075				2. How easy is it for members of the public to make an adverse event report?			
				3. What information and support are available to assist the public to make adverse event reports?			
				4. Why isn't reporting on adverse events publicly available? You can't go onto the TGA website and see the number or details of adverse event reports?		11.10.10	28.10.10
				5. Are sponsors required to report all adverse incidents, or only those that are not known or expected and cause significant injury? What about adverse incidents that occur in other countries?			
				6. If sponsors are required to report all adverse incidents causing significant injury, does the TGA administer and enforce this requirement?			
				7. Is the TGA taking any steps towards compulsory reporting of adverse incidents by clinicians? If not, why not?			
				8. Why doesn't the TGA have a greater policy development role?			
				9. Similarly, why doesn't the TGA play a greater role in communications around medicines safety and regulation processes?			

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
078		Barnett		<p>CLONING:</p> <p><i>Further to answer to Question: E10-058:</i></p> <p>What is the current state of the process involved in establishing the independent review of the operation of the <i>Prohibition of Human Cloning For Reproduction Act 2002</i> and the <i>Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002</i> each as amended by the <i>Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction and the Regulation of Human Embryo Research Amendment Act 2006</i> as required by Section 25A of the <i>Prohibition of Human Cloning For Reproduction Act 2002</i> and by Section 47A of the <i>Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002</i> to be undertaken as soon as possible after the third anniversary of the day on which the amending Act received Royal Assent (12 December 2006)?</p> <p>When is it now anticipated that the composition of the committee that will conduct the review will be announced?</p> <p>What will be the cost of the review and how will this be funded?</p>	04.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
079	1	Barnett	RU486	For each state and territory please provide (a) the number of practitioners who are currently authorised to supply mifepristone (RU486) for the termination of pregnancy; and (b) for each six month period for which reports have been received the total number of the number of patients for whom mifepristone has been prescribed.	04.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
080	1		RU486	What regular reports are required of persons who have been granted a permit for the importation of mifepristone solely for the purpose of supplying practitioners authorised under section 19(5) of the Act to prescribe mifepristone for the termination of pregnancy?		05.07.10	30.09.10
081				Please provide data on the import on the number of doses of mifepristone imported since the first permit was issued by period and by state and territory.			
082				Please provide the six monthly reports received from Dr Caroline Da Costa for 2009.		11.10.10	28.10.10
083	1		RU486	For what period of gestation of pregnancy are practitioners who have been authorised to supply mifepristone for the termination of pregnancy supplying the drug?		11.10.10 05.07.10	28.10.10 30.09.10
084	1		RU486	Do all the authorisations to supply mifepristone include a requirement that misoprostol is also administered?		05.07.10	30.09.10
085	1		RU486	Do the authorisations specify the length of time between the administration of mifepristone and the administration of misoprostol?			
				Has the TGA received any information about the number of occasions on which the administration of mifepristone and misoprostol has failed to result in a completed termination of pregnancy?		05.07.10	30.09.10
				What other adverse effects have been reported by authorised prescribers?			
076		Mason		1) What is the current number of schools and out-of-school hours care services delivering the Active After-school Communities program? a. By state b. By electorate	04.06.10	15.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate																				
077		Mason		<p>2. For each of the programs below:</p> <p>a. What is the total funding for this program in 2009/10; 2010/11; 2011/12; 2012/13; and 2013/14?</p> <p>i. If funded by multiple governments, what is the Federal Government's funding contribution?</p> <p>1. If funded by multiple federal government departments, what is DH&A funding contribution?</p> <p>b. What is the number of staff positions allocated to this program?</p> <p>c. What Budget line item(s) is this program funded under?</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Indigenous Job Creation Package</td></tr> <tr><td>National Recreation Safety Organisations</td></tr> <tr><td>(a) Royal Life Saving Society Australia</td></tr> <tr><td>(b) Surf Life Saving Australia</td></tr> <tr><td>(c) Austswim</td></tr> <tr><td>(d) Australian Ski Patrol Association</td></tr> <tr><td>Anti-Doping Research Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Illicit Drugs in Sport Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Binge Drinking in Sport Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Club Champions Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Community Sport and Recreation Facilities</td></tr> <tr><td>Active After-School Communities Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Women in Sport Awards</td></tr> <tr><td>National Sport Volunteer Strategy</td></tr> <tr><td>Australian Institute of Sport</td></tr> <tr><td>Direct Athlete Support Scheme</td></tr> <tr><td>National Talent Identification and Development Program</td></tr> <tr><td>Funded National Sporting Organisations</td></tr> <tr><td>Local Sporting Champions grants</td></tr> </table>	Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program	Indigenous Job Creation Package	National Recreation Safety Organisations	(a) Royal Life Saving Society Australia	(b) Surf Life Saving Australia	(c) Austswim	(d) Australian Ski Patrol Association	Anti-Doping Research Program	Illicit Drugs in Sport Program	Binge Drinking in Sport Program	Club Champions Program	Community Sport and Recreation Facilities	Active After-School Communities Program	Women in Sport Awards	National Sport Volunteer Strategy	Australian Institute of Sport	Direct Athlete Support Scheme	National Talent Identification and Development Program	Funded National Sporting Organisations	Local Sporting Champions grants	04.06.10	15.10.10	28.10.10
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086	1	Xenophon	National Bowel Cancer Screening Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Supplementary Budget Estimates last year, I put some questions on notice with regards to the Bowel Cancer Screening Program, and whether any cost/benefit analysis had been undertaken on distributing the kits more frequently than every 5 years, as is the current program, and opening up the program to all Australians over 50. The answer last year, was 'No'. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Given medical research shows that more regular screening, for all ages over 50, would increase the chances of detecting colon cancers at early stages, is the Government/Department looking at modifying the Bowel Cancer Screening Program to be applicable to all ages over 50? • Experts recommend two-yearly bowel cancer screens and say that under the current guidelines, Australians will be diagnosed with cancers at the more advanced stage than if the screening program was available to all Australians over 50, every two years. • Such a move is estimated to cost around \$100 million, but would be worth it when considering that the program detects at least 70 percent of colon cancers in their early stage. Does this not provide good basis for opening the scheme up to all ages, and more regular screening? 	04.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
087	FSANZ	Xenophon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What measures does FSANZ have in place to ensure that honey imported from countries that may have a lower standard of production than Australia does not cause a risk in terms of biosecurity and human safety? 	04.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
088				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that honey imported into Australia is tested at a rate of 5 percent. Does this vary to take into consideration countries using banned pesticides or antibiotics for bee diseases that may leave traces in the honey? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If not, how does FSANZ determine whether traces of banned pesticides or antibiotics may be present? Given the strict standards regulating Australia's honey industry, does FSANZ not consider that low import standards could put the industry at risk? 		8.10.10	28.10.10
089				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How clear is country of origin labelling for honey? If imported product is mixed with Australian product, are the relevant percentages displayed on the label? In terms of honey labelled as 'Australian' for the purposes of export, does the honey have to be 100 percent produced in Australia, that is, made by bees in Australia, to be labelled as Australian? Is there any way to prevent honey producers from mixing Australian honey with lower standard imported honey and exporting it under an 'Australian made' or similar label? 		8.10.10	28.10.10
090				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of olive oil, what standards are in place to prevent the situation I just described with exported honey? 		8.10.10	28.10.10
091				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that the labelling definitions for oils are so open, what measures are in place to prevent importers from deliberately mislabelling oil (using the terms 'extra virgin' and so on) or diluting it with inferior product or even totally different oils? 		8.10.10	28.10.10
092				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What country of origin laws are in place in relation to olive oil? If imported product is mixed with Australian product, are the relevant percentages displayed on the label? 		8.10.10	28.10.10
093				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of olive labelled as 'Australian' for the purposes of export, does the oil have to be 100 percent produced in Australia, that is, made from olives grown in Australia, to be labelled as Australian? 		8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
094	FSANZ	Xenophon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to GM foods, has FSANZ ever had testing done on oils for the presence of novel DNA or protein? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If yes, how many tests and what were the results? ○ If novel DNA or protein was found, what kind and brand of oil was it found in? ○ What action did FSANZ take in response? Will it force companies to conform to labelling standards for other GM foods? • If no testing has been done, why not? • If tests were done but all negative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When were the tests done? ○ What tests were done and on what oils? 	O4.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
095				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When testing GM foods for approval in Australia, does FSANZ undertake its own testing or rely on test results from the manufacturer? 		8.10.10	28.10.10
096				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does FSANZ have any concerns about the impartiality of test results provided by manufacturers, given that manufacturers have a significant financial interest in getting their products approved? • Does FSANZ ever use test results from other, independent organisations? If so, which ones? 		8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
097	11	Siewert		ATAPs	O4.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
098				1. Are there geographic areas and/or population groups whom Access To Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) should be targeting?		12.10.10	28.10.10
099				2. How can ATAPS facilitate outreach to individuals who are unlikely to present to GPs?		12.10.10	28.10.10
100				3. Should other medical practitioners, such as paediatricians, psychiatrists and medical officers in Non-Government Organisations, be allowed to refer to ATAPS as long as there is a clinical diagnosis of a common mental disorder?		12.10.10	28.10.10
101				4. Are there effective workforce recruitment and retention models that work in the current ATAPS projects, especially in Indigenous and rural and remote communities?			
102				5. How may we ensure continuity of service and retention within the current ATAPS workforce, especially in Indigenous and remote communities?		12.10.10	28.10.10
				6. Should Divisions of General Practice continue to be sole fundholders for ATAPS projects?		12.10.10	28.10.10
103				7. Are there other entities that may be better placed to meet service gaps in particular regions or for particular target groups, such as Indigenous communities?		12.10.10	28.10.10
				8. Should the funded organisation be required to apply for funding through demonstrating links to target populations, capacity to work with GPs and a history of operational efficiency?			
104				9. Should funding formulas for ATAPS move to a mixture of performance based funding and activity based funding?		12.10.10	28.10.10
				10. Is there a role under a future ATAPS for 'virtual' services provided by professionals through telephone or web to supplement face to face services under ATAPS in rural areas?			
				11. What would be the risks and benefits of such models?			
				12. What other innovative service models could be explored through ATAPS?			
				13. What other evidence based psychological therapies could be explored through ATAPS?			
				14. to the 200,000 currently not receiving a service? If so, why only funding for 25,000 people?			

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
105	11	Siewert		15. What evidence does the Government have that Better Access is targeting low income and disadvantaged people.	04.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
106				16. Have the existing State / Territory services been taken into account in planning, are there plans to coordinate to avoid duplication and how will services be integrated across the different levels of Government.			
107				17. What clinical governance arrangements are planned in relation to people who may be under Tier 3 packages and who may have a serious mental illness and who are either at risk of self harm (including neglect) or who may be at risk of harming others?		12.10.10 12.10.10	28.10.10 28.10.10
				18. Clinical case management: What does the government mean by this term?			
				19. Approximately 2-3% of the population suffer from a severe mental disorder (530,000 people). State government community mental health services provide services to approximately just over 300,000 people. Is the new Tier 3 funding for ATAPS aimed to provide services to the 200,000 currently not receiving a service? If so, why only funding for 25,000 people?			

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115	15	Mason		<p>Trs from F&PA Committee [Finance and DeReg] 8/6 Regarding the Minister for Sport's international travel since 4 December 2007: How many times has the Minister travelled outside Australia?</p> <p>i. For each of these occasions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. how many members of the Australian Public Service travelled with the Minister; 2. how many Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 ministerial staff travelled with the Minister; 3. did a spouse; family member or other nominee travel with the Minister; 4. what was the total cost of the trip; 5. can an itemised list be provided of the following costs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. airfares b. VIP aircraft travel c. Accommodation d. Meals e. Entertainment f. car travel g. other expenses 6. for each night of accommodation, which hotel (or other establishment) was used by the Minister; 7. for each commercial flight, what was the class of travel: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. of the Minister b. of the members of the APS travelling with the Minister c. of the M&PS Act ministerial staff travelling with the Minister d. of the spouse, family members or nominees travelling with the Minister 8. what was the purpose of the trip; and 9. who did the Minister meet? 	08.06.10	15.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
165		Humphries		1. Are there any National Health Priority Areas for which there are no national action plans? If so, why?	15.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
166				2. Will the Department provide a table setting out each National Health Priority Area together with each specific program to address these priorities over the next four years?		19.10.10	28.10.10
167				3. How many potentially preventable hospitalisations can be attributed to each of the National Health Priority Areas?		19.10.10	28.10.10
				4. Which consultants were engaged by the Department to conduct projects relating to each of the National Health Priority Areas since October 2007?			
				5. What was the cost of these consultants by National Health Priority Area?			
				6. What reports did these consultants prepare? Which reports have been publicly released?			
				7. Has the government responded to these reports, if so which ones and what was the government's response?			
168				8. Are there any reports that have not been publicly released? If so, what are these reports, on what date did the Department receive these reports and why have these reports not yet been released?		8.10.10	28.10.10
				9. Will the Department now release these reports?			
				10. How much funding has been allocated for research for each of the National Health Priority Areas?			
135	14	Back	Panvax vaccine	With respect to the Panvax Vaccine produced by CSL: ➤ What is the total number of (a) multi-dose vials (b) doses left in the stockpile? ➤ How many multi-dose vials are currently distributed amongst immunisation providers in each state? ➤ Are you able to provide the total number of people that have been vaccinated with the Panvax vaccine? ➤ How many doses have / will be provided to assist in overseas aid efforts? ➤ Are you aware of any efforts by CSL to apply for an extension for the existing stockpile? If so, for how long? ➤ How many doses does the Department believe will expire on July 2010? What is the anticipated cost of these expired and unused doses?	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
136	14	Back	Panvax vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why was Australia required to take delivery of the full 21 million doses when other countries have been able to roll back their orders as the threat has lessened? ➤ For example, the SMH cites that Britain were able to reduce their 90 million dose order to 60 million? <p>Did the Government / Department seek to rollback Australia's order as it became clear that Swine Flu did not present the pandemic risk initially anticipated?</p>	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
137	1	Back	2010 seasonal flu vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can you confirm that the 2010 seasonal flu vaccination is provided solely by CSL? 	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
138	1	Back	Vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do people have a choice of either the seasonal flu vaccine or the swine flu jab or is it recommended they have both? 	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
139	1	Back	Flu vaccine shortage	<p>There has been a shortage of the seasonal flu vaccine, has the Department been advising State and Territory health officers to recommend that they get the swine flu vaccine as advocated by ACT Health in the Canberra Times below particularly as so many of these doses are due to expire?</p>		30.09.10	28.10.10
140	14	Back	Hendra virus vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which section of the Department of Health & Ageing under the Office of Health Protection is responsible for surveillance and collection of data relating to H1N1 Virus? ➤ Is this the same section responsible for seasonal flu? ➤ How is this information collected? Reported by doctors? <p>How does the Government ensure that there is proper reporting of H1N1 v seasonal flu statistics?</p>	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
141	1	Back	Flu vaccine reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the up to date total number of children who presented with reactions by state/territory? ➤ Does this represent the total number of children affected? If so, on what information are basing this on? <p>Can provide in detail information on the process used to report adverse reactions from doctor in each state / territory to Federal Government.</p>	11.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
142	1	Back	Death in Qld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Was the CMO aware of the case in Qld and the possible link to the seasonal flu vaccine prior to the child's death? If not, why? 	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
143	1	Back	Seasonal flu vaccine	Was there a public awareness campaign around this year's seasonal flu vaccine that provided information not only medical practitioners but adults and parents about child vaccination about the fact that it also included the H1N1 virus? Please provide detail.		30.09.10	28.10.10
144	1	Back	Free flu vaccine	<p>Free vaccines were given to those most at risk of influenza, pregnant women, people with underlying medical conditions, people aged over 65 and over and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can you confirm the Department's free flu vaccination policy? Has this been consistent over previous years? ➤ Have you got figures on the uptake of vaccination for 2009-10 & 2010-11? Provide breakdown of figures if available across eligible groups and other. ➤ In WA, seasonal flu shots were provided to children under 5, is this unusual and if not which other states adopted this measure? <p>What is the total cost of this measure in the last budget period and the -anticipated cost to the tax-payer this estimates period?</p>	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
145	1	Back	Office of Medicines Safety Monitoring	<p>TGA – Office of Medicine Safety and Monitoring is the responsible agency you report adverse reactions to vaccines to – please confirm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When was the first report of adverse reactions of the flu vaccination in children? ➤ When was it realised that it was not the normal side effects and that the program had to be suspended? ➤ What are considered to be ‘normal’ side effects to seasonal flu/swine flu vaccination/2010 flu vaccine? ➤ Does the TGA report to the CMO? Was he kept advised of new reported cases in each state / territory? When was it determined that national advise to suspend the junior vaccine for children under 5? ➤ Did the TGA / DHA or Minister advise CSL to withdraw their vaccine or was this done voluntarily? 	11.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
146	1	Back	Adverse reactions to vaccines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I understand the TGA is looking into whether CSL’s vaccine was to blame or just batches and that this is being tested. Can you provide us with an update on early conclusions and when the report will be finished? 	11.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
147	1		Adverse reactions	<p>Finally, is any follow-up conducted by the Office of Medical Safety and Monitoring? Victorians seem to have a good system for vaccine adverse reactions – SAFVIC where they follow-up with family and also give feedback to the GP. If you don’t have a follow-up service have you considered implementing one?</p>		05.07.10	30.09.10
148	1	Back	Adverse reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The adverse reactions caused by this year’s seasonal flu vaccine will cause more Australians to reconsider immunisation. Is the Department reassessing its universal immunisation program and instead offer it only to groups at high risk? ➤ What measures are being taken to counter increasing risk? <p>Will it be placing more resources into public awareness campaigns to address these concerns? Please outline how advertising campaigns will be financed through which budget and by how much in this and forward estimates years.</p>	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
149		Back		<p>Queensland and Federal Government announced that they will be sharing the cost of developing a vaccine for the Hendra virus in animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While this measure has been funded it doesn't appear to be costed. Will Health and Ageing be contributing to the federal contribution to this measure? ➤ Have there been discussions? ➤ Will future decisions on funding vaccines for zoonotic diseases continue to be dealt with on an ad hoc basis or is Health looking at a means to co-ordinate with the Department of Agriculture? <p>Can you articulate any practical cross-departmental partnerships that have been formed in response to this?</p>	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
150	14	Back	Centre for Emerging Infection Disease	<p>With the Government's decision to close the Biosecurity CRC, has further consideration been given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A more permanent "centre for emerging infectious diseases"? ➤ Has a proposal for a centre been considered by Health and Ageing? ➤ Is there any capacity to fund a facility or jointly fund a facility through the resources of the Department of Health and Ageing? 	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
151	14	Back	Human Mono-Clonal Hendra antibodies	<p>Human Mono-clonal Hendra Anti-bodies</p> <p>Sunshine Coast mother and daughter who were exposed to the latest confirmed Hendra case in a gelding were offered the experimental human monoclonal antibody. This is an experimental treatment which hasn't been trialled on human beings and was previously used at the last minute to treat vet Alistair Rodgers who lost his life after tending to a horse who had the Hendra virus.</p> <p>This drug has been developed by CSIRO in collaboration with scientists from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health in the US.</p> <p>This untried treatment reportedly binds to the virus to prevent it attaching to blood cells.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has Department of Health been following the development of this human treatment for Nipah/Hendra virus which is an international collaboration between the CSIRO and US research partners? ➤ Has there been any consideration by health in investing in this research or in acquiring this once it has been trialled? 	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
151		Back		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why were QLD Health responsible for offering to acquire this experimental treatment from the US and not Health and Ageing? ➤ Was it aware of the offer though and what role if any did Health and Ageing have in allowing this un-trialled treatment to be used on Australians? ➤ Have you been following the outcome of the treatment on Rebecca Day and her daughter? <p>As this has a biosecurity element – if there was an outbreak, is there financial resources in the Department of Health and Ageing to acquire treatments like this to save Australian lives and where is this provided for in the Department's budget?</p>	11.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
152	11	Back		<p>The Government announced \$175.8 million package for “build the foundation for better mental health care”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Topline measures in the Minister’s press release include: \$78.8 million for Headspace, \$25.5 million for Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre model, \$13 million for Mental health nurses over two years only, \$58.5 million for care packaged & unspecified funding for “an unallocated number” of sub-acute care beds – the cost of which are not included in this “package”? ➤ Do you dispute that all these measures form part of the Federal Government’s commitments under COAG? ➤ Has any new money been allocated to mental health and can you detail where? ➤ To which programmes? ➤ Total expenditure on mental health over this and forward estimates years by programme? ➤ There has been widespread criticism amongst health and mental health experts about the amount of money that has been invested in mental health over health. Given that it was going to be this government’s no. 1 priority to place mental health back on the COAG agenda, health policy expert and former senior health advisor to the Government, Dr Leslie Russell, has stated that there is only \$31.4 million of new funding for health services over the next four years. And that over three successive budgets under this Government a total of \$354.6 million has been cut from mental health programmes. That doesn’t seem to be very much given that mental health affects 1 in 5 Australians. 	11.06.10	18.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
153		Back		<p>One of the measures that the Government did promise and surprisingly has delivered if the establishment of a National Advisory Council on Mental Health. Its members include experts in mental health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Mr John Mendoza</i> (Chair) - former Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Council of Australia, and author of the seminal 'Not for Service' report ➤ <i>Mr Michael Burge</i> - consumer consultant/advocate for the Toowoomba District Mental Health Service ➤ <i>Associate Professor Neil Cole</i> - Associate Professor in the Monash Medical School, mental health consumer and former Victorian Member of Parliament ➤ <i>Mr David Crosbie</i> - current Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Council of Australia ➤ <i>Professor Allan Fels</i> - Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, and a carer ➤ <i>Professor Ian Hickie</i> - Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney and Executive Director of the Brain & Mind Research Institute ➤ <i>Professor Lyn Littlefield</i> - Executive Director of the Australian Psychological Society ➤ <i>Associate Professor Helen Milroy</i> - descendant of the Palyku people in the Pilbara, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Associate Professor and Director for the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at University of Western Australia ➤ <i>Ms Dawn O'Neil</i> - Chief Executive Officer of Lifeline Australia ➤ <i>Dr Rob Walters</i> – general practitioner, former chair of the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) ➤ <i>Ms Adele Cox</i> - is a Bunuba & Kija (Gija) woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Member of several committees' including the Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention, the National Indigenous Youth Movement of Australia (NIYMA) and is the current Chairperson of the Indigenous Strategies Working Group (ISWG). ➤ Was there a representative of DOHA at the last meeting? If so did Minister Roxon attempt to gag her own Council from express disappointment at the Govt's lack of action on mental health? ➤ These experts have all been appointed to provide independent advice the Government but many have spoken out about their disappointment in this government. Is the Minister's veiled threat to her own advisory board that they are doing their sector no favours an attempt to gag an independent advisory board? 	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
154	13	Back	Subacute care beds	<p>Minister Roxon's Budget media release announces "\$1.63 million for 1,316 new sub-acute care beds by 2013-14 – to support more rehabilitation, palliative care and mental health services, including in residential services and community-based settings.</p> <p>Budget paper two in contrast states that there is a Government commitment to "at least 1,300 additional beds for sub-acute services. Can you please clarify what the Government's commitment is?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Can you confirm that this actually means that 1,316 sub-acute care beds will that need to be split between 4 areas: palliative, rehabilitation, geriatric and mental health? ➤ How many have been allocated to each area? ➤ If this is the states and territories responsibility isn't the Government abrogating its responsibility to show just how high a priority mental health is to it? 	11.06.10	13.07.10	30.09.10
155						18.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
155		Back		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As an indication how many of these sub-acute care beds do you hope will be allocated to mental health? ➤ Ensuring that there are beds for mental health is the key to keeping those 65% of people diagnosed with a mental illness out of hospital. How many would you suggest? 500 / 600? ➤ Not having a position on how many beds should be allocated to mental health and leaving it to the states / territories isn't good enough. Health has access to national statistics and recognises the weight of the problem. Where is the leadership? ➤ When and where will this decision be made – COAG? ➤ How the total number of beds was arrived at? ➤ Why isn't this measure only notionally funded through the Department of health and ageing (ie. 2010-2011 \$233.6 million through Treasury 	11.06.10	18.10.10	28.10.10
156				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How many sub-acute beds are currently allocated by state / territory? <p><i>(MHCA has indicated that ACT may lead with 27 mental health beds, Victoria with 24, SA has 2 but I haven't confirmed these figures – that the Government is more committed through its health reform to providing for mental health sufferers once they develop further problems NOT dealing with mental health.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to MHCA MR 22 April 2010 – 40% of people would not be in hospital if there were more sub-acute beds. Does the Commonwealth agree with this? <p>What information is available on waiting lists for mental health / palliative / geriatric / rehabilitation?</p>		12.10.10	

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
157		Back		<p>Headspace program This commitment is composed of \$78.8 million over 4 years for 30 new Headspace sites, to provide additional funding to existing sites and expand telephone and web-based mental health services for young people. It says that it will support an additional 20,000 young people a year once it is established.</p> <p>Provides for young Australians aged 12 – 25.</p> <p>2010-11 \$10.8 mil 2011-2012 \$19.9 mil 2012-13 \$23.8mil 2013-14 \$24.3 mil</p>	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
158				<p>What is the demand for Headspace services? If there is a “waiting list” does it reflect an increasing demand?</p> <p>Professor Pat McGorrie, expert in youth mental health says demand can not be met under \$100million. Is he wrong to say that an investment in youth mental health services “will be recouped three times over because early intervention is highly cost-effective and rapidly shrinks the need for care in the medium to long term,”.</p> <p>Department research would reflect the risk of mental health problems lessens with age and that is why we should address it from the front. Not the back. Why isn’t more funding being put into youth mental health programmes like this?</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
159		Back		<p>This Howard Government programme was budgeted at \$530 million in 2006-07 but the cost blew out under successive budgets as it was costed at the number of visits not the cost of the visits.</p> <p>This has been a highly successful programme and the fact that it has blown out supports this. The Government has tried to reign in expenses by cutting out social workers and occupational therapists to save \$60 million which appears to have been directed into ATAPS (Access to Allied Psychological Services). So there has been a slight of hand in not finding new funding to put into a great programme like ATAPS but stripping it from Better Access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Let's address the changes that have been made to Better Access with the removal of social workers and occupational therapists right to bulk bill. The government says it is putting in place "foundations" instead it seems to be stripping away coalface workers. ➤ This measure takes \$60 million out of Better Access by removing these workers. ➤ The Minister has now flip flopped on this after outcry from these stripped workers by saying that they will delay implementation until April. 	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
159		Back		<p><u>CONSULTATION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why if this is such a good policy for mental health are social workers and occupational therapists so angry with the Government? ➤ Did the Government / Dept engage in consultation with these groups? ➤ Where did the advice come from that social workers / OT are not a key part of the mental health care system? 	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
159		Back		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Have studies or research been conducted to assess what happens to mental health sufferers or working families that are at risk if these key mental health workers are removed? ➤ Are you assured that without these workers there will be continuity of care and this won't pose an adverse risk to their clients / patients? ➤ Social workers in particular are the more socially acceptable face of mental health. Those reluctant to see a psychologist will see a social worker. If the MHC or Department recommended this what information / advice was this based on? Press for them to table this advice? ➤ They may say they can bid for the ATAPS scheme – If so, then when was this advice provided to these workers? Before or after the budget announcement? ➤ Why weren't psychologists or doctors taken out? ➤ What other professions will be removed from the better access scheme? 	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
160		Back		<p><u>SLIGHT OF HAND WITH “MENTAL HEALTH CARE”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seems that the decision to cut out these two occupations is a little like re-arranging deck chairs on the titanic as this “Saving” has meant that \$60 million has been redirected to ATAPS. We want to see why new money hasn't been invested and more investment not more stripping back of the successful Better Access programme. ➤ The Government has said mental health is a priority but has continues to strip funding from this programme. Where is the new funding 	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
161		Back		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every mental health expert “Patrick McGorie, Ian Hickie, says this money will not fill service gaps. How does the Government fill its commitment to this sector? ➤ Does the Govt believe Prof Ian Hickie, Prof Pat McGorry, the Chair of the Mental Health Council, Rob Knoles, are they all wrong in saying the funding the govt has allocated will not address any of the gaps in mental health. ➤ Mental health effects 1 in 5 Australians. The reason why our hospitals and emergency are full are the because of untreated mental illness. – according to their own dept of health information 65% of people (who have been diagnosed with a mental health problem) who need mental health care go untreated is that what the government called leadership on mental health - ABS latest Health and Wellbeing Survey 2007) ➤ Imagine if 65 % of people with breast cancer went untreated. Why haven’t they implemented a better programme. Better Access is an initiative of a coalition government what has this government done in the last three budgets to treat those 65% of these people. <p>The Minister has promised that there will be more funding – when can the sector expect this and how can it trust the Government when all it has seen is more cutbacks to the sector?</p>	11.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
162		Back		<p>National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission</p> <p>The report that forms the “foundation” of the Government’s health reform “A healthier future for all Australia” had only two health specific chapters on oral and mental health. There were a total of 12 recommendations and of these 11 were focused on mental health?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What steps are being taken to implement these? 	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
163		Back		<p>Government appears to have run out of good will on mental health. The same left-wing activist group that got this Government elected in 2007, Get Up! have launched a campaign to better proper funding of mental health with the support of last year's Australian of the Year, Patrick McGorrie. Even though a former co-founder of the organisation, Lachlan Harris is now the PM's press-sec.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has the Minister / Department consulted or engaged with Get Up!? ➤ If so, has this taken place prior to or following the delivery of the Budget? <p>Did they lobby for increased funding for mental health funding and for which programmes?</p>	11.06.10	18.10.10	28.10.10
164		Back		<p>The Government has said that it will put mental health back on the COAG agenda – why if the Government is doing such a great job with mental health is WA not only refusing to sign up the Government's farcial National Health Reform but have decided to go it alone.</p> <p>They appear to have so little confidence in the ability of the Federal Gvoernment to address this important matter that they have dedicated \$38 million to mental health and have appointed a Mental Health Commissioner</p>	11.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
----		Boyce		<p><u>General Corporate</u> TRS TO FINANCE (F&PA 22/5) Can the department confirm that the government is the number one spender on advertisement on free to air television?</p> <p>[DoHA to answer this part relating to above] How much does the department spend?</p> <p>During the "Listening Tour" conducted by the Prime Minister and the Health Minister last year, what was the exact figure spent on hiring photographers by the health department? Were staff members encouraged to visit the YourHealth website to generate hits? How many staffers were encouraged to do so?</p>	15.06.10	-----	
188						18.10.10	28.10.10
189						11.10.10	28.10.10
191				<p>TRS TO TREASURY 21.06.10 According to the Prime Minister's statement announcing the increase in cigarette tax, an estimated 87,000 people will give up smoking as a result of this cost increase. How was the figure calculated?</p> <p>Is it true that the Quitline does not operate on Sundays or public holidays because of a lack of funds to pay the operators on those days?</p>		11.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
192		Boyce		<u>Aged Care and Population Ageing</u> Considering there is a shortage of high-care nursing home spots, how many older Australians with unmet care needs will end up in acute care beds in hospitals? Can the department provide any projections on how many older Australians are in acute care beds? If not, why not?	15.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
193				What steps have been taken to ensure that the information provided to the department about Evans Head, land availability and the Aerodrome by Richmond Valley Council is correct considering that land has always been available to build a nursing home off the aerodrome? Is it correct that the spouse of the Director of Environmental and Development Services for Richmond Valley Council has been the person responsible for directing activity at the Aerodrome at Evans Head? Is there potential conflict of interest for both Director of Environmental and Development Services for Richmond Valley Council and his spouse because of the proximity of their home to both the aerodrome and the former retirement village site? What representation has been made to the Health Minister and the department in general by the Member for Page, Janelle Saffin, about the retirement village? Does the views in Ms Saffin's representation accord with those of the community representation? What effect has this had on deliberation?		19.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
194	12	Boyce	Fast tracked doctors	<u>Primary Care</u> Can the department provide details of where the 4381 doctors fast tracked for Medicare provider numbers received their medical training and whether their medical competency has been tested? If not, why not?	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
195	12		Sect19AB of the Health Insurance Act 1973	Is the department considering a review Section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act - bearing in mind 59 per cent of Australia is affected by doctor shortage and this legislation was enacted at a time of doctor oversupply?		23.02.10	30.09.10
196	5		Integrated Primary Care Model	Has the department completed any comparative research between the integrated primary care model implemented by the British in the 1980s and the current model created by the government? What does this research demonstrate?		22.09.10	30.09.10
197	5		John Dwyer's Proof-of-Concept Model	Has the department considered John Dywers' model of proof-of-concept larger units, in which people enrol just like they would enrol in a gym, where there is a range of allied health care professionals covered for Medicare payments including dentists? What were the results?		22.09.10	30.09.10
198		Boyce		<u>Private Health</u> Has the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman reviewed private health insurers who have cut rebates for gastric banding? What was the result of the review?	15.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
199	2	Boyce	Erbitux	<u>Access to Pharmaceutical Benefits</u> The 2010-2011 budget states that the reforms to the PBS processes are aimed at providing “stability and policy predictability to the industry for the next four years, cut red tape and speed up the addition of new medicines to the PBS.” Is the Government aware that a therapy called Erbitux which has been proven to be effective in significantly extending survival for bowel cancer patients has been rejected by the PBAC on seven occasions since the first submission was presented in November 2004?	15.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
200	2		Erbitux	Patients in the UK,US, France and Germany currently receive subsidised access to Erbitux for the treatment of colorectal cancer via their government medicine schemes or insurance. Is the Government concerned Australia’s healthcare system falling behind other countries? What measures are being put in place to ensure that Australian cancer patients have access to treatments considered globally to be standard of care?		05.07.10	30.09.10
201				What measures is the Government undertaking to ensure that “innovative” treatments are being subsidised, despite them being considered high cost?		8.10.10	28.10.10
202	2		Erbitux	Is the Government concerned for the welfare of families who are paying for the treatment on private script which can exceed 20K? Bowel cancer is Australia’s second most common cancer but the level of available subsidised treatment is falling behind breast cancer. What is the Government doing to address this?		05.07.10	30.09.10
203		Boyce		<u>Hearing Services</u> What discussions has the department had with clubs and bars about noise levels on their premises and potential ways to minimise harm to their patron’s hearing?	15.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
204				What would be the cost to the Budget if the deaf and hard of hearing aged 21 to 65 were eligible for the Government Hearing Services Program?		8.10.10	28.10.10
205	7		Hearing screening	The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has a commitment to introduce universal newborn hearing screening by the end of this year. Will this commitment be met? Which states are not yet conducting hearing screening on new born infants?		18.08.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
206		Boyce		<p><u>Mental Health</u> With the release of the new edition of the DSM has the department reconsidered its recommended approach for the diagnosis of mentally ill patients? The DSM manual has broadened the potential to diagnose more people with mental health disorders; does the department expect a rise in mental health patients due to the diagnoses of new illnesses seen in the DSM? If so, has the department projected any increase in funding to mental health areas to handle an increase in diagnosis of mentally ill people? Will any patients currently in care facilities for mental illness be re-diagnosed? Will this result in increased costs?</p>	15.06.10	12.10.10	28.10.10
207				Can the department please either confirm or deny that, due to a lack of mental health care beds, patients in South Australia are held in acute care facilities for as long as a week?		12.10.10	28.10.10
208				Can the department provide the current waiting times for access to mental health beds or an appropriate facility for mentally ill patients in each state? If not, why not?		12.10.10	28.10.10
209				Will there be a further delay in waiting times, as the government has only allocated 200 extra beds for mental health care? If not, why not?		12.10.10	28.10.10
210				Why is Australian of the Year and distinguished mental health expert Dr Patrick McGorry considered so fundamentally wrong when he criticises the Government's mental health commitment? In what specific aspects is his criticism wrong?		12.10.10	28.10.10
211	10	Boyce	Electronic health records	<p><u>Health System Capacity and Quality</u> I refer to the funding of \$467 million for two years starting in 2010-2011 to establish the so-called "personally controlled" electronic health records system. What is the current status on the necessary co-operation of the States and Territories and when is the Council of Australian Governments expected to sign off on this? Why has funding only been provided for two years? What happens after the two years with funding? How much of that funding will go to the private sector and for what goods and services? Why isn't there an overall plan for investment in e-health available in the public domain for discussion and scrutiny? When will such a plan be available? Is the funding to be used to implement the already endorsed National E-Health Strategy or, if not, what strategy is being implemented?</p>	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
212	10	Boyce	NEHTA	What has been spent on NEHTA from its inception to the end of this financial year?	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
213				What are the staffing levels at NEHTA by financial year since its inception?		18.10.10	28.10.10
214				What has been spent on contractors and consultants by NEHTA since its inception by financial year and who are these contractors/consultants, how much has been spent on each and for what goods or services?		19.10.10	28.10.10
215				How much of the budget by financial year has been spent on domestic and overseas travel and how many officers have gone on overseas trips and for what purposes?		11.10.10	28.10.10
216	10		NEHTA	What role is envisaged for NEHTA in the PCEHR Service? What governance plans are proposed for the PCEHR service? Is it planned to establish a new organisation to plan, develop and deliver the PCEHR or is this to be a function undertaken by DoHA or NEHTA?		22.09.10	30.09.10
217	10	Boyce	Health Identifiers (HI)	What has been total expenditure to date on the HI Service and has it been within the expected budget?	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
218	10		eHealth	Of all of the errors we know occur in the health system, what estimate has been made of how many of these will be prevented by the implementation of the HI Service and on what peer-reviewed literature covering the beneficial impact of unique health identifiers is this based? Once established, what are the estimated ongoing costs of the HI Service to taxpayers, health care providers and the public on an annual basis?		22.09.10	22.09.10
219	10	Boyce	eHealth	Is the \$500,000 given to the Privacy Commissioner over the next 2 years for regulatory support the full amount requested by the Commissioner to provide that support? Does the Privacy Commissioner believe every privacy concern can be addressed and answered within the \$500,000 budget? On what basis was \$500,000 considered sufficient to address the major privacy concerns over two years? What penalties are proposed for any provider or any other person who are responsible for breaches of privacy when the system is operational?	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
220	10	Boyce	eHealth	What agencies will be protected from litigation for data breaches and why is this necessary? Is it in the public interest to protect bureaucrats from the consequences of their own negligence or deliberate disclosure? The Taxation Act prohibits the use of a tax file number for anything other than tax. Why can't a similar prohibition be included in the health identifiers legislation?	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
221	10	Boyce	Health Identifiers (HI)	<p>Is the Government planning to issue an identifying smart card (Under the NEHTA NASH program) to all health providers? If so, how much will this cost and how long will it take? If not how can the Government be confident of the information contained in the audit trails (on who is accessing these systems) of the HI Service and the proposed PCEHR will identify misuse?</p> <p>Is it not a fact that the identifier service was scheduled for completion five months ago?</p> <p>How much of the \$98 million provided for the service under COAG arrangements in February 2006 has been spent?</p> <p>How much will be required to finish the project?</p>	15.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
223	1	Boyce	National male health policy	<p><u>Population Health</u></p> <p>What specific new programs concerning the National Male Health policy have been launched to address the six priority areas since the May 2010? What funding has been provided for each in 2010/2011 and in the forward estimates?</p> <p>Have specific programs been developed to specifically target higher risk groups among men— particularly indigenous and those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds – and, if so, what are they?</p>	15.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10
224	1		Life expectancy	How many programs within DoHA are targeted specifically to men only and what are they?		05.07.10	30.09.10
225	1		Men's health	<p>Is there an assumption or an acceptance in health planning that there will always be a difference in the average life expectancies of men and women?</p> <p>Minister Snowdon's policy document stated: <i>"The Government is committed to ensuring this Policy remains a dynamic framework for action and is reviewed over time."</i> What timeframe exists for this ongoing review?</p>		22.09.10	30.09.10
226				<p>The policy document stated that Asian male immigrants have low death rates for suicide. What lessons can be drawn from this which can be adapted for the wider male population?</p> <p>What is the current status of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, its funding and what specific recommendations has it made to advise all governments on preventive health?</p>		14.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
227	8	Boyce	Indigenous health	I refer to the requirement for all patients to be asked about their Aboriginality. Given that indigenous Australians living in urban Australia have better access to health services, what will the affect on "Closing the Gap" statistics be?	15.06.10	13.07.10	30.09.10
228	8		Indigenous eye health	Considering the Melbourne University report claims that cultural barriers were the main reason for certain eye problems being so prevalent in indigenous communities, what measures have the department taken to address cultural barriers and encourage indigenous people to use health services more readily?		13.07.10	30.09.10
229	8		Trachoma	What programs has the department devised to encourage facial hygiene to combat the prevalence of trachoma?		13.07.10	30.09.10
230		Fierravanti-Wells		How many meetings were held of the National Preventative Health Taskforce?	16.06.10	13.07.10	
231				Who attended each meeting and each consultation?		11.10.10	28.10.10
232				How much travel allowance or other reimbursement was paid to each member of the Taskforce?		11.10.10	28.10.10
				Has all research which was commissioned by the Taskforce been made publicly available?		14.10.10	28.10.10
233		Fierravanti-Wells		The National Partnership on Preventative Health is \$872.1 million passed to the States? Can you provide a detailed breakdown of what the State and Territory Governments provide for this \$872.1 million?	16.06.10	11.10.10	28.10.10
234		Fierravanti-Wells		How much research on preventative health is already coordinated through the NHMRC?	16.06.10	11.10.10	28.10.10
235		Fierravanti-Wells		The Budget document "Taking Preventative Health Action" states that the Agency will harness the efforts of groups such as (State and Territory Governments, Public Health Organisations, Advocates and Academics) in shaping preventative health efforts nationally How will it do this?	16.06.10	11.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
236	1	Fierravanti-Wells	Chronic disease	As agreed by the States at COAG in 2008, have the States and Territories been reporting annually on the prevalence of key chronic conditions, lifestyle risk factors and their effective treatment? If so please provide these reports to the Committee? If not reporting, why not and when are they expected to report?	16.06.10	18.08.10	30.09.10
237		Fierravanti-Wells		What progress has been made on reducing indigenous smoking rates since January 2008? Which States and which Territory have made the largest gains in the reduction of smoking rates since 2007?	16.06.10	14.10.10	28.10.10
238				The Minister estimated that the 25% increase in tobacco excise will reduce smoking by 87 000 Australians. What is the estimated reduction in smoking rates from the plain packaging measure? Which jurisdictions around the world have actually introduced plain packaging?		11.10.10	28.10.10
239		Fierravanti-Wells		In 2009 the NHRMC released updated 'Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol' What is the current level of awareness of the guidelines amongst the general population? What is the current level of awareness of the guidelines amongst pregnant women, young Australians and their parents? What is the current proportion of Australians who drink at levels which place them at short term harm? What is the current proportion of Indigenous Australians who drink at levels which place them at short term harm?	16.06.10	14.10.10	28.10.10
240	4	Fierravanti-Wells		How are daily fees for residential aged care calculated for self funded retirees? How often is income testing conducted and by which agency? Who is responsible for advising on fee charges and whose responsibility is it if an error occurs and a resident is under charged and is then expected to pay the revised charge? How many times a year are fees adjusted and for what reason?	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
241		Fierravanti-Wells		How many election commitments in aged care have been referred to the Productivity Commission inquiry into aged care?	16.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
242				I understand that the COPO indexation recently announced by the Minister was 1.7%, how was this calculated?		8.10.10	28.10.10
243				Why are aged care providers unable to convert unallocated aged care places into community care places when there is identified need in the community?		19.10.10	28.10.10
244				Can the department advise how the Government determined that COPO should be set at 1.7% for the 2010/11 financial year?		8.10.10	28.10.10
245		Fierravanti-Wells		Can the department advise what the annualized CPI increase was for the period ending 31/3/10?	16.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
				Has the department undertaken any assessment of the impact on aged care providers of not at least maintaining income at the level of CPI?			
246		Fierravanti-Wells		How can the Commonwealth OK average annual increases in health insurance of 5.7% and yet limit increases in aged care to 1.7%?	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
				What is the department's assessment of the annual increase in the costs of providing aged care services?			
246		Fierravanti-Wells		Given the recently announced Fair Work Australia decision for low paid workers is more than 1.7% how does the government believe aged care providers can meet this additional cost?	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
246		Fierravanti-Wells		Many aged care providers have had no choice but to grant enterprise agreement wage rises to staff of at least 2 to 3 % just to maintain staff and to cover their costs of living increases. Can the department advise how providers are to meet these wage cost pressures from a 1.7% indexation.	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
246		Fierravanti-Wells		Recently the Minister for Ageing was extolling aged care providers to increase the wages of aged care workers. Given the circumstances outlined in the above statements is there any guidance or additional support coming from government as to how providers are to achieve that outcome with a COPO increase of 1.7%?	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
246		Fierravanti-Wells		<p>It is commonly accepted that aged care workers nurse and carers are being paid at levels considerably below their counterparts in the acute hospital system. How are providers meant to bridge this gap with increases of 1.7% in basic subsidy?</p> <p>The department has previously claimed an overall increase in payments to the industry in the order of 8% per annum.</p> <p>Is this correct?</p> <p>Do you claim that is still the increase for the current year?</p> <p>How is that figure constituted? How much is growth? How much represents the increases in ACFI subsidy based on the escalating acuity of residents? How much is the further lifting of the capped higher ACFI subsidy rates? How much is the forward estimates projections for new community and residential places coming on stream? How much is the annual COPO increase?</p>	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
247		Fierravanti-Wells		Can the Department indicate what the annualized PBCLI was for the period ending 31/3/10?	16.06.10	19.10.10	28.10.10
248		Fierravanti-Wells		If pensioners living in their own home receive an increased pension almost twice as big as subsidy paid to care for residents in aged care facilities why are aged care residents being penalized?		8.10.10	28.10.10
249	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Aged Care Access Initiative (GP component)	<p>The budget initiative to increase the rebate to GPs achieving aged care facility consultation targets provides a further \$96m over four years. What evaluation has occurred in respect to the success of this program prior to the additional funding?</p> <p>What analysis has occurred regarding the impact of this program in attracting further GPs to service aged care facility residents? If not why not? If not when will any evaluation occur?</p> <p>What other strategies is the department considering in concert with both the AMA and aged care bodies to improve aged care as an attractive service environment for GPs in the future?</p>	16.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
250		Fierravanti-Wells		The department has previously made much of the Bentleys annual financial survey. The most recent report from Bentleys would seem to confirm the existing financial benchmarking reports from other providers i.e. that the industry's performance continues to decline overall. What data does the department maintain that tracks industry financial performance? Does the department substantially use the same data as the industry financial benchmark services? If this is the case the assumption is that the industry financial benchmark indicators are very reflective of the financial health of the industry. In which case is the department concerned about the future viability of the industry especially with a COPO index considerably below CPI and the average wage increase in the previous 12 months of 2.6%?	16.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10
251		Fierravanti-Wells		<p>GP SUPER CLINICS</p> <p>The Department of Health and Ageing confirmed that only two and a half superclinics have opened:</p> <p>Could the following information be provided: Details of the progress as of 16 June 2010 of the planned GP superclinics (Palmerston, Mt Isa, Riverina, Wallan, Devonport, Ipswich, Onkaparinga, Cairns, Modbury, Playford North, North Central Coast, Grafton, Queanbeyan, Berwick, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Redcliffe and Brisbane South and any other since the 23 February 2010 that have been announced or commenced construction), including:</p> <p>a) Completion of Contract.</p> <p>b) Status of local government building approval.</p> <p>c) Date construction commenced, if not commenced proposed date of commencement.</p> <p>d) Recruitment processes for GPs, allied health professionals and administrative staff.</p> <p>e) Proposed date of opening.</p> <p>f) Definition of operational</p>	16.06.10	8.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
252	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	What is the projected revenue and expenses of each GP Superclinic after commissioning expected to be? How have these running costs been calculated?	16.06.10	21.09.10	30.09.10
253	5			How will the treatment risk and potential liability in each GP Super clinic be underwritten and paid for?		22.09.10	30.09.10
254				What cost benefit analysis has been undertaken on each GP Super Clinic and will that be made publicly available?		21.09.10	30.09.10
255				Will all Superclinics provide 24/7 care?		21.09.10	30.09.10
256				If not, what are the minimum number of hours and days on which they will be open? By what advertising, either inside or outside the clinic do the public know they are attending a Government funded GP Superclinic?		21.09.10	30.09.10
257	8	Fierravanti-Wells	Indigenous programs	How is the Department measuring the effectiveness of spending on indigenous programmes?	16.06.10	13.07.10	30.09.10
258	8		Percentage of total Indigenous health funding being spent on contractors	What percentage of the total Indigenous health funding is being spent on contractors?		13.07.10	30.09.10
259	10	Fierravanti-Wells	eHealth	Under the National Partnership on E-Health which was agreed at COAG on 7 December 2009 the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments will each contribute 109 million up until 30 June 2012 What will be achieved with this money? Specifically what will this money achieve in terms of e-referring and e-prescribing?	16.06.10	22.09.10	30.09.10
260	10		eHealth – PIP funding	How much funding has been allocated in PIP to encourage e-health?		22.09.10	30.09.10
261	2	Fierravanti-Wells	Community Pharmacy Agreement	How much funding has been allocated in the Community Pharmacy Agreement for e-prescribing and dispensing?	16.06.10	05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
262		Fierravanti-Wells		The NHHRC commissioned a report from Price Waterhouse Coopers titled "High level cost of a National Patient Assistance Travel Scheme" Can you provide the Committee with a copy of this Report?	16.06.10	18.10.10	28.10.10
263		Fierravanti-Wells		Health and Hospital Network Plan \$449.2 million for individuals with diabetes who enrol with a GP practice of their choice to receive coordinated care. How many individuals with diabetes are currently registered with their GP? How many are currently on a care plan? What is the amount currently available for allied health under the current arrangements for diabetics who are registered with a practice? What will be the amount available for allied health under the new arrangements? As the extra money will be paid to the practice, can you guarantee that there will be extra money available for allied health such as dieticians?	16.06.10	15.10.10	28.10.10
264	Whole	Fierravanti-Wells		Under what circumstances can the Department procure service or services by direct sourcing? Please provide a list of all procurements since December 2007 that have been conducted by direct sourcing and the conditions that the decision met in order to be considered as such? Was the procurement of IBM services conducted by direct source and if so, please itemised service and cost of each service?	16.06.10	8.10.10 (includes attachment)	28.10.10
265	Whole		Hawker Britton	What monies have been paid to Hawker Britton since November 2007 including full details about the amount of each payment, nature of the work or project undertaken, the date of payment, etc?		05.07.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
266	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Oral surgery	Why has the Dental Board of Australia included in its list of registrable specialties – Oral Surgery despite the ADA, ADC, RACDS, ANZAOMS and others advising against Oral Surgery being included as a specialty as being against the public interest, confusing to the general public and potentially putting the health of the public at significant risk?	16.06.10	23.09.10	30.09.10
267	12		Oral surgeons	Why does the recently passed federal legislation – Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act allow undertrained overseas and local oral surgeons to be registered as specialists in Australia thus undermining the high standards of training currently in place for specialist training in this area in this country?		23.09.10	30.09.10
277	12	Fierravanti-Wells	MBS – revision of access to specialist consult items for sport & exercise medicine physicians	Is it true that the Budget proposes to abolish the MBS item numbers 444 – 449 for Sports and Exercise medicine services effective 1 November 2010? If not please explain how the MBS – revision of access for specialist consultation items announced in the budget under Program 12.2 will impact Sports and Medicine specialists?	16.06.10	23.09.10	30.09.10
288	14	Kroger	Swine flu vaccines	Trs from FADT [AusAid] Following on from a previous Senate Estimates question regarding the rollout of swine flu vaccinations in Pacific islands countries, were the vaccinations delivered?	17.06.10	30.09.10	28.10.10
316		Ronaldson		Health Reform advertising [TRS FROM F&PA – Finance & DeReg] a) In relation to taxpayer-funded advertisements on behalf of its hospital reform proposal, how much will this cost? b) Has this reform plan been universally accepted and endorsed by all the states and territories of the Commonwealth? c) Have these reforms been enacted into law through legislation? d) Does the Government still agree with its 2007 policy platform that promised: "government advertising campaigns [will] only occur after a government policy has been legislated for by parliament"?	22.06.10	18.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
270		Siewert		<p>How many people are you anticipating will not be able to access services through the Better Access program?</p> <p>Why is the cost differential between seeing a social worker and seeing a psychologist?</p> <p>Under the Better Access program you still do the rebates with the set prices. If you move from there to the ATAPS program, what is the cost differential there?</p>		12.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
340		Fierravanti-Wells		[Media articles <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> and <i>Policy by the Seat of their Pants</i> whether misinformation or information that is not correct in both articles] When was the decision made to establish the yourhealth.gov.au website? Who was responsible for this decision and on who's instructions was this decision taken?	CA28 2/6	18.10.10	28.10.10
341				Was the yourhealth.gov.au logo and website the first choice for the Prime Minister's announcement in responding to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Report that he and the Minister for Health would conduct consultations around the country? If not the first choice what other concepts were considered and rejected?		18.10.10	28.10.10
342				Did the Prime Minister refuse to promote yourhealth.gov.au website?		11.10.10	28.10.10
343				How much was spent with production companies to source and produce testimonials?		18.10.10	28.10.10
344				Did the production company recruit bloggers to provide comment on the yourhealth.gov.au site? Did the public relations company recruit bloggers to provide comment on the yourhealth.gov.au site? What social marketing techniques were used by the public relations company and the production company to ensure blogs and polling were received on the yourhealth.gov.au website?		11.10.10	28.10.10
345				How many testimonials were identified by members of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission? How many testimonials were identified and sourced by the Department of Health and Ageing? Were individuals who provided testimonials paid?		18.10.10	28.10.10
346				Did the production company advertise for individuals to provide testimonials? How many family members and friends of the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission were enlisted to provide testimonials?		11.10.10	28.10.10
347				How many family members and friends of the Department of Health and Ageing were enlisted to provide testimonials? Were Department of Health and Ageing staff instructed to contribute blogs to the yourhealth.gov.au site?		18.10.10	28.10.10
348				How much does the Communications section of the Department of Health and Ageing spend on training per year?		11.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
349				Please provide a list of training courses that staff members in the communication section have attended since November 2007? Please provide date, location and name of course?	CA28 2/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
350				Were instructions given to criticise the previous government in media releases and other communication materials? If so please provide a copy of the instructions and by who they were given? Did the junior Minister's office provide a template for media releases and speeches? If so please provide a copy of the template? How much was spent on photography for the health consultations conducted by Minister Roxon and the Prime Minister?		18.10.10	28.10.10
351		Fierrravanti-Wells		Ref CA69 2/6 Did the Minister meet with representatives from Grant Thornton on 14 th October 2008? What was the name of the report presented to the Minister by Grant Thornton at the meeting? Please provide the findings of the report and its conclusions? What was the name of the representative from the Department of Health and Ageing that attended the meeting? What did the Minister agree to do as a result of the meeting? Was the Department asked to action any work as a result of this meeting? If so please provide details?	See CA69 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
179		Fierrravanti-Wells		What date GP Superclinic answers went to Minister's office for revision	7 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
334		Fierrravanti-Wells		Media release subscription service – if dept undertaken to see where problem lies	8, 9, 10	11.10.10	28.10.10
119	Whole	Fierrravanti-Wells	List of invitees to consultations	List of people who attended launch of final rpt NHHRC	14 2/6	24.06.10	30.09.10
336		Boyce		List of States that do not contribute to other NMDSs	29 2/6	13.10.10	28.10.10
337		Boyce		AIHWs progress with data improvement	30 2/6	13.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
303 304		Fierrravanti-Wells		Figure re number of beds [\$800m agreed by COAG.	31 2/6	o/s 18.10.10	28.10.10
305	13		Costings for subacute care beds	What were the assumptions that underlay the costing that Finance did for \$800m of a portion of that 1316 sub-acute beds]	32 2/6	o/s 18.10.10	28.10.10
306	13			Breakdown of where those 1316 beds are		13.07.10	30.09.10
335		Fierrravanti-Wells		Advertising campaign health reform plan - what was shown to the Independent Communications Committee on 7 Apr and what was shown to Independent Communications Committee on 21 April	37 2/6	13.07.10	28.10.10
126		Fierrravanti-Wells		Aust Organ & Tissue Donation & Transplant Authority – how many staff were there when the authority was established	42 2/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
127				How many staff have left the Authority; how many were resignations and how many were fired		8.10.10	28.10.10
128		Fierrravanti-Wells		Aust Organ & Tissue Donation & Transplant Authority –When did the chief financial officer resign; were there any accusations of wrong doing	43 2/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
129		Siewert		Organ donation - breakdown by State comparing 2008 to 2010 figures	45 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
278		Fierrravanti-Wells		Allegations relating to BUPA & Domain homes – whether any were subject of a similar complaint.	49 2/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
279				Whether any complaints since 1 May 07 relate to similar allegations to what is alleged in the Sunday Telegraph	50 2/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
280			Staff profile of homes	12.10.10		28.10.10	
281			Numbers of people who called as result of reading the article.	12.10.10		28.10.10	
282			Average number of complaints in relation to the two homes	12.10.10		28.10.10	
174		Siewert		ACAT assessments - what is the average rate of disagreements between ACAT approvals (high/low) and RCS classifications from Jan 08 to Jan 10	55-56 2/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
283		Moore		How do you measure the success of the Community Visitors Scheme	59 2/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
365		Fierrravanti-Wells		Figures relating to volunteers in community visitors scheme; and forward estimates	59 2/6 60	19.10.10	28.10.10
175		Siewert		CPI – how much did the accommodation supplement increase by (%) in Mar 2010	61-62 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
176		Fierrravanti-Wells		Breakdown of where additional transition care places are	66 2/6	15.10.10	28.10.10
177		Fierrravanti-Wells		Number of bed licences handed back since 2007; Breakdown by planning region of where bed licenses have been handed back and how many of those bed licences have been reallocated for residential and also for community care places	69 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
178		Fierrravanti-Wells		Zero interest loans – what planning region they are in	69 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
133		Fierrravanti-Wells		What does the accreditation body look at when assessing the Accreditation Standards which have any link to nutrition and hydration, and any link to food standards	72 2/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
284		Fierrravanti-Wells		Highest number of complaints rec about a NSW home	73 2/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
285				Total number of complaints made against nursing homes in NSW in past 3 years.		12.10.10	28.10.10
286				How many have been investigated		12.10.10	28.10.10
287				the outcome of investigations that normally follow spot checks		19.10.10	28.10.10
180		Fierrravanti-Wells		Table of grant programs reprioritised	75 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
320		Ryan		Time contract was signed on 19 May with Portland group superclinic	80 2/6	21.09.10	
317	5	Ryan	GP Super Clinics	Whether there were any discussions between the Minister's office and the CEO or Chairman regarding the media that appeared subsequent to the signing of the Portland GP Superclinic agreement and what the nature of those conversations was	82 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
318							
319							
320							
321	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Strathpine nursing home visits	84 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
293	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	In relation to the Strathpine GP Super Clinic: a) Have any of the medical authorities required any of the doctors at this clinic to be supervised by another doctor or placed conditions on their registration? b) If so, who provides that supervision or what the conditions of their registration are? c) On what dates and times is that supervision provided? d) Are any of the doctors working at that clinic subject to a 10-year Medicare moratorium? e) Further, what exemptions have been granted, if any? f) Are there any of the doctors at this clinic practising there for a special purpose activity?	84 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
294	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Strathpine GP Superclinic - are there any overseas trained doctors employed at the clinic who have been registered as medical practitioners in Aust for less than 10 years. Do any of them have any exemptions under the Health Ins Act. Have other GP practices within the Strathpine area sought Medicare provider numbers for overseas trained doctors who do not meet the 19AB exemptions. If there were any such requests, how many, when and what the results have been	84 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
295	5			In relation to any workforce exemptions applying to the Strathpine GP Super Clinica has there been any special treatment given to this super clinic	84 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
325	5	Furner	GP Super Clinics	GP superclinics – in relation to consultation with ATSI groups by Strathpine, what feedback received from Bunyabilla	85 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
326	5			Any feedback on how the library is used by the community – whether practitioners in are area or students are taking up that opportunity		21.09.10	30.09.10

Q No.	Outcome /Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written Q	Date Answer Received	Date Tabled in the Senate
328		Fierrravanti-Wells		GP superclinics re consideration of changes to a capital works proposal subsequent to selection of pref applicant. Focus on Logan spoke of Brisbane Southside – is it going to be a process where, if you cannot get a superclinic up for some reason, suddenly in midstream you change your contractual arrangements	88 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
327		Moore		GP superclinics re consideration of changes to a capital works proposal subsequent to selection of pref applicant. Focus on Logan spoke of Brisbane Southside – if officers can give consideration and give a briefing to Senator Fierrravanti-Wells on this issue	88 2/6	7.10.10	28.10.10
329	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	We could certainly provide the types of governance arrangements around the superclinics that are being developed or are currently operating	89 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
330	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Mount Isa clinic – options around clinic claiming that clinic in that city cannot be built for the money allocated under the superclinic scheme	89 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
331	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Walk in appointment arrangements for Pt Stepehsn. Is that a common feature of what we are going to start seeing at super clinics, that you will only be treated if you are a local with one problem	91 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
332	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	In relation to alleged coercive practices at the Pt Stephens GP Super Clinics	91 2/6	21.09.10	30.09.10
276	5	Fierrravanti-Wells	Prevocational GP Placements Program	What are the assumptions behind the increases to the prevocational general practice placements program	96	23.09.10	30.09.10
307		Siewert		Private health ins rebates – if forward estimates are different to the trends predicted in some of the other expenses. What is the reason for the two different sets of figures	99 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10
313		Fierrravanti-Wells		What proportion of the budgeted expenditure on health does the private health insurance rebate represent	99 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10
314		Fierrravanti-Wells		Percentage expenditure of rebate. If 10.4 per cent is correct	100 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10
308		Fierrravanti-Wells		Aggregate value of procedures performed in the private hospital system	100 2/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
309		Fierrravanti-Wells		When will next National Hospital Cost Data Collection be collected	101 2/6	18.10.10	28.10.10
310		Fierrravanti-Wells		For every person who exists private health insurance, what is the expected marginal cost to the public system	101 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10
311		Fierrravanti-Wells		Average amount spent by the Govt for private health insurance rebate for each person with private health insurance	102 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10
312		Fierrravanti-Wells		When was advice first provided on proposals to means test the private health insurance rebates	103 2/6	19.10.10	28.10.10

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134	2	Fierrravanti-Wells	Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement	Details in relation to services that is envisaged \$277m will fund	118 2/6	24.06.10	30.09.10
Ans p. CA127		Siewert		Total made available by Dept over the period of the agreement [Fifth community pharmacy agreement]	121 2/6	-----	
361		Abetz		Why Dr George O'Neil had difficulties receiving funding for naltrexone program. If Dept accepts efficacy of Fresh Start service and that it has a success rate 12 times greater than other good methodologies to take people off opiates	123 2/6 124 2/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
117	14	Adams	PNG nationals seeking treatment in Qld	Increase in PNG nationals seeking treatment in Qld health clinics	21 3/6	30.09.10	28.10.10
118	1	Adams	Doses of seasonal influenza vaccine	Does of seasonal influenza vaccine provided under the PBS and NIP in 2009	21 3/6	30.09.10	28.10.10
296	5	Siewert	Evaluation of the improving maternity services budget package	Evaluation of maternity services budget package – in terms of evaluations process are you looking at whether collaborative arrangements are being entered into and whether they are effective or not. Have you got an evaluation process in place	25, 26 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
302		Fierrravanti-Wells		Medicare teen dental – actual number and percentage of patients who have received a benefit under the scheme	26 3/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
315	3	Siewert	Medical indemnity	If people can access services such as blood tests, ultrasounds etc if they are choosing a home birth	27 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
364		Ryan		Whether any response to a petition to Minister re Warrnambool access to MRI facilities. If any representation to Minister on a visit by PM to Warrnambool	29 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
362		Fierrravanti-Wells		Number of complaints received about access to pathology services	31 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
-----		Fierrravanti-Wells		How many pathology providers are operating in Australia [Sen FW advised she will not be providing written QONs as stated in Hansard	31 3/6	-----	
339	3	Abetz	Pathology Services	Pathology services – changes made to Medicare funding arrangements that may have contributed to a decrease in the growth rate of pathology outlays between Feb 1992 and Feb 1995	32 3/6	13.07.10	30.09.10

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363		Adams		Review of pathology funding arrangements – if Minister will give undertaking that cuts will not be made unless there is clear objective evidence of areas where the amount being paid currently is too high	33 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
222		Back		Mental health funding what is the allocation in 2009-10 – actual annual division of figures for out years	44 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
268		Boyce		Better health initiative – list to end Mar 10 number of consultations and psychological assessments under the item numbers	46 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
269		Fierravanti-Wells		Why Dept did not consult with social workers and OTs before decision re changes to counselling services	48 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
353		Siewert		What happens if the evaluation says this is a cost-effective program that the community likes. Are you still going ahead and will make the changes or reconsider in light of the report	49 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
354		Siewert		How many people are you anticipating will not be able to access services through the Better Access program	50 3/6	05.10.10	28.10.10
355		Siewert		What is the cost differential between seeing a social worker and seeing a psychologist	50 3/6	05.10.10	28.10.10
271		Furner		Breakdown by rural and remote classifications of OTs and social workers registered with Medicare to provide Better Access services	54 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
272		Siewert		Training and workforce development	54 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
356		Adams		Suicide Prevention Aust recommendation re credentialising organisations undertaking work in suicide prevention – details of work undertaken with states territories about best approaches to training to improve capacity to identify and respond to people at risk of suicide	55 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
273		Siewert		If sufficient funding and programs for suicide prevention for LGBTI community being addressed for future	56 3/6	12.10.10	28.10.10
181	10	Humphries	Regional cancer centre	New cancer clinic at Canberra Hospital if originally planned to be a 5-storey building. If correct that of the 4 storeys built that only two are to be fitted out and made operational under \$27.9m budget	56 3/6	02.07.10	30.09.10
182	10		Regional cancer centre	Whether new building is not significantly different in size and scope to present cancer facilities; why existing facility is being replaced by a new one no larger in size. What differences in size between Lismore cancer facility costing \$30m.	57 3/6	02.07.10	30.09.10
183	10	Abetz	HHF grant to Tasmania	What is population of Nowra and why they were granted \$23m for cancer research as opposed to Tasmania's \$18m and population of 500K and highest cancer rate in nation	57 3/6	02.07.10	30.09.10

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184	10	Abetz	HHF grant to Tasmania	How much time was Tasmania given from the request to put in a revised application to the date that that revised application had to be back in Canberra.	58 3/6	o/s 14.10.10	28.10.10
185	10			Were Cancer Council nor Calvary Hospital were advised of revised application process.		02.07.10	30.09.10
186	10			Why would Min Roxon say that Tas got what they asked for which was \$47m and they got \$18m		02.07.10	30.09.10
333		Humphries		National health priority areas – provide projection of what is intended to be spent over forward estimates and what has been spent in each of this and previous two financial years – if possible provide breakdown into Medicare funding, PBS funding etc	60 3/6	19.10.10	28.10.10
-----		Humphries		ACT Cancer centre – which company has been given the contract to build the ACT cancer centre Dept advise ans at hearing – see CA61	61 3/6	-----	
289	10	Fierrravanti-Wells	eHealth – expenditure on eHealth	How much has been spent by the Commonwealth since 1993 on e-health initiatives Breakdown of state and territory govt spending on e-health since 1993	66 3/6	22.09.10	30.09.10
290	10	Fierrravanti-Wells	eHealth	Has the Govt identified how much will be required for the promotion of health identifiers if the legislation is passed	66 3/6	22.09.10	30.09.10
291	10	Fierrravanti-Wells	NEHTA	Breakdown of what has been spent of the \$218m allocation for e-health	67 3/6	22.09.10	30.09.10
292	10	Fierrravanti-Wells	eHealth	e-health – breakdown of funding – on \$466m under COAG prov over 2 yrs to establish national components for secure national system, what will that be spent on. There is global figure of \$466.7m can that be broken down to separate line items or will it be paid in total to NEHTA	67 3/6	22.09.10	30.09.10
124		Abetz		In preparation of NHMRC document <i>a new food guidance system for Aust: foundation and total diets</i> what advice or guidance was sought from Dept of Agric, Fisheries and Forestry. List of key stakeholders to whom the draft was sent and who responded and any response received through advertising. Which Govt agencies did NHMRC consult with about sustainability of stocks used to influence the draft dietary guidelines	72-73 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
116		Siewert		Bisphenol A – in survey by ACCC on bisphenol A in infant formula, if all brands avail in aust were surveyed	78 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
120		Ludlam		ANSTO employees with alleged raised white blood cell count – whether blood tests involved to detect raised levels of radiation and what kind of evidence examined.	82 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10
121		Ludlam		Summary, as part of routine emissions into the air and water, what kind of inventories there are of radioisotopes that are emitted into the environment by the ANSTO facility [breakdown by radioisotope over 12 months, incl liquid discharges]	83 3/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
122		Ludlam		Details of an exclusion zone surrounding the Lucas Heights facility within which food is not allowed to be produced	83 3/6	8.10.10	28.10.10

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123		Fierrravanti-Wells		Non-medical imaging scanning machines at airports – info on countries who have indicated they will introduce scanners	85	8.10.10	28.10.10
108		Xenophon		Copy of protocols for investigations [standard operating procedures how an investigation should be conducted]	86 3/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
109		Xenophon		Breast implants – if same gel that was initially approved in the ones that have been tested	87 3/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
110		Xenophon		If patients afforded same protection by way of product liability if a reprocessed device fails to perform in subsequent reuse	88 3/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
111		Adams		If equipment used by some of the complementary medicine providers for breast scanning if registration states that the equipment is classified as mammography	89 3/6	11.10.10	28.10.10
Ans p. CA91		Fierrravanti-Wells		Details of lifestyle modification program – breakdown of targets to reduce risk of diabetes	90 3/6	-----	
332		Fierrravanti-Wells		If correct that patients at Pt Stephens Superclinic are asked to sign an 'alleged coercive' agreement that if bulk billing is offered, it is a privilege which may be withdrawn if the patient does not reasonably participate in the management of their health	91 3/6		
125	1	Adams	National Bowel Cancer Screening Program	Bowel cancer screening - breakdown of results for the 50 and 55 age groups in relations to numbers that have to go on for further testing	94 3/6	22.09.10	30.09.10
360	3	Abetz	Practice nurses	How much was claimed in total in relation to procedures undertaken for and on behalf of nurses in Tas in last financial year. Estimates total value of the new payments to As	98 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
275	12	Fierrravanti-Wells	Number of overseas nurses working in Aust	Number of nurses working in system from overseas as opposed to Aust citizens	99 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
300	12	Adams	General Practice Rural Incentive Program	GP rural incentives program - how long is it due to exist; is there funding for 3 years	99 3/6	13.07.10	30.09.10
357	12	Adams	Relocation incentives	If relocation incentives will assist local govt	100 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
297	12	Furner	International recruitment strategy	What is the retention rate/figures	102 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10

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298	12	Adams	Retention & relocation incentives	New eligible General Practitioners (GPs) in each state and outline some towns in those states that will have access to those incentives for the first time	102 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
299	12	Adams	National rural locum program	National rural locum program – two separate locum schemes - how long funded under its new banner	104 3/6	12.07.10	30.09.10
352	12	Adams	Nurse practitioners – aged care	Of 34 scholarships are offered to nurse practitioners; how many places are in aged care	105 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
130	12	Fierrravanti-Wells	Health workforce capacity	Health Workforce Aust – outline of grant programs	106 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
131	12	Fierrravanti-Wells	Health workforce capacity	HWA - national recruitment program – how many positions	107 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
132	12	Fierrravanti-Wells	Health workforce capacity	HWA - details of expert committees to be established; HWA staffing structure	111 3/6	23.09.10	30.09.10
274		Fierrravanti-Wells		What are health workforce training responsibilities, incl roles of HWA, GPET, and DoHA		15.10.10	28.10.10
112		Fierrravanti-Wells		Details of security measures for Delhi Commonwealth Games	116 3/6	15.10.10	28.10.10
113		Fierrravanti-Wells		Breakdown by state of 3250 schools delivering the Active After-School Communities program	117 3/6	15.10.10	28.10.10
358		Fierrravanti-Wells		If Prime Minister will be attending the World Cup	118 3/6	15.10.10	28.10.10
359		Fierrravanti-Wells		Contract details with Mr Harvey and Mr Dixon and contract cost	119 3/6	15.10.10	28.10.10
114		Fierrravanti-Wells		What component of Sports Commission departmental expenses is for travel	127	15.10.10	28.10.10