

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May and 1 June 2012

**Question:** E12-152

**OUTCOME 11: Mental Health**

**Topic:** Multicultural Mental Health

**Type of Question:** Hansard page 55, 30 May 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Did you investigate whether the Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre was able to enter into the consortium, given the parameters of its charter?
- b) I would appreciate it if you could advise me if that is the case-whether the appropriate investigation was undertaken before the Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre, as the leader of the consortia, was awarded that project.
- c) What influence did Dr Groves have, given his position and his interaction with DOHA and various other mental health bodies? Did he have any influence on or any involvement in this project having its funding taken away from it and reallocated to consortia which he was representing as a lead agency?
- d) I am not satisfied with what I have seen on the public record about that process and I would like to understand Dr Groves's involvement, if any. Did he have any involvement at all in this process? I also would like to understand, regarding the review that was undertaken, who instigated that review that was being undertaken?
- e) But I understand that the organisation [NSW Western Sydney Local Health District] was told, and if you could clarify for me what interaction there was between the department and the relevant New South Wales agency, that it was effectively-I will not say 'precluded', but there was an issue as to whether it was welcome to reapply. That is the point that I am getting at.

**Answer:**

a) and b)

Yes, the Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre's (QTMHC) core business functions are state-based, and the QTMHC is one of four state-based members of a Collaborative providing expert leadership to the Multicultural Menatal Health Australia project.

The relevant Funding Agreement is held between the Commonwealth and the state of Queensland acting through Queensland Health.

c) to e)

The independent review and the independent Financial Review, of the former Multicultural Mental Health project, were initiated by the Department of Health and Ageing, and were undertaken and completed within the terms set by the Commonwealth.

The 2009 independent review conducted by Health Outcome International is publicly available at

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/1C4E71926591F6B6CA2578BE000BA84A/\\$File/multirev.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/1C4E71926591F6B6CA2578BE000BA84A/$File/multirev.pdf)

The 2010 independent Financial Review conducted by KPMG was provided to the Committee in March 2012 (refer to the response provided to Question on Notice E12-374).

For further information please refer to the Community Affairs Committee website at [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate\\_Committees?url=clac\\_ctte/estimates/bud\\_1112/DoHA/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=clac_ctte/estimates/bud_1112/DoHA/index.htm)

Consistent with the independent review of the project, the Department conducted an open market process for the future management of the project. An Invitation to Apply for funding was advertised in The Weekend Australian on 18 December 2010, seeking applications to manage the Multicultural Mental Health Australia project.

This open, competitive and merit-based selection process was undertaken and managed within the Department in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines. All eligible organisations were able to apply.

Dr Groves had no involvement in these processes other than as the signatory of the Queensland Health application for funding.