

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-404

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: Health Reform

Type of Question: Hansard Page 19, 30 May 2012

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Were experts consulted in relation to the elective surgery targets and emergency department targets? If so, who were they and when did that consultation occur?

Answer:

Yes.

The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (the Commission) was established in February 2008 and presented its final report, *A healthier future for all Australians*, in June 2009. This report recommended National Access Targets, including for elective surgery and emergency departments.

The Commission comprised the following members:

- Dr Christine Bennett, FRACP;
- Professor Justin Beilby, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide;
- Dr Stephen Duckett, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alberta Health Services;
- The Hon Dr Geoff Gallop AC;
- Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, 19th National President, Australian Medical Association;
- Associate Professor Sabina Knight, FARLF, FRNCA;
- The Hon Rob Knowles AO, Chair, Mental Health Council of Australia;
- Ms Mary Ann O'Loughlin, Executive Councillor and Head of the Secretariat, COAG Reform Council;
- Professor Ronald Penny AO, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of NSW, Senior Clinical Advisor, NSW Health; and
- Dr Sharon Willcox, Director of Health Policy Solutions.

In relation to emergency department targets, in October 2010 the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) agreed to establish a time-limited Cross Jurisdictional Clinical Advisory Group (CJCAG) to research and make recommendations on a nationally consistent

definition of patients for whom it is clinically appropriate to remain in emergency departments longer than four hours. CJCAG was established in December 2010, with membership consisting of the following emergency clinicians and jurisdictional representatives:

- Professor Jim Bishop, Chair (December 2010 to 10 April 2011);
- Professor Chris Baggoley, Chair (from 11 April 2011);
- Dr Andrew Singer, Commonwealth;
- Mr Daniel Comerford, New South Wales;
- Ms Sarah Hoy, New South Wales;
- Ms Sam Ludolf, Victoria;
- Professor Anne-Maree Kelly, Victoria;
- Dr David Green, Queensland;
- Professor Paddy Phillips, South Australia;
- Dr John Merchant, Australian Capital Territory;
- Dr Anthony Lawler, Tasmania;
- Dr Didier Palmer, Northern Territory;
- Ms Gail Milner, Western Australia;
- Associate Professor Drew Richardson, The Canberra Hospital;
- Ms Liz Cloughessy, Australian College for Emergency Nursing;
- Dr Kate Porges, Gosford Hospital;
- Dr Michael Hession, Mt Druitt Hospital;
- Ms Sue Huckson, National Health & Medical Research Council;
- Dr Fergus Kerr, Austin Health;
- Dr Peter Barnett, Royal Children's Hospital;
- Ms Julie Finucane, Queensland Health;
- Dr David Rosengren, Greenslopes Private Hospital;
- Dr Diane King, Southern Adelaide Health Service Emergency Services; and
- Dr Yusuf Nagree, Fremantle Hospital.

CJCAG's final report and recommendations were provided to AHMAC in early June 2011.

In February 2011 COAG agreed to establish an Expert Panel to review the elective surgery and emergency department targets.

The Expert Panel comprised:

- Professor Christopher Baggoley, Chair, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Ageing;
- Associate Professor Brian Owler, a neurosurgeon based at Westmead Hospital and the Children's Hospital at Westmead;
- Professor Michael Grigg, a distinguished clinician with a particular focus on vascular surgery;
- Dr Heather Wellington, medical practitioner, hospital administrator, lawyer and specialist health advisor;
- Doctor Mark Monaghan, MBBS FACEM, Clinical Toxicologist, Co-Director of Fremantle Hospital, Clinical Lead in the successful implementation of the Four Hour Rule at that hospital since the program's inception in April 2009; and
- Ms Julie Hartley-Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Cairns and Hinterland Health Service District.

The Expert Panel provided its report to COAG in June 2011. The work of CJCAG was considered and acknowledged in the Expert Panel's report.