

## Senate Community Affairs Committee

### ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### HEALTH PORTFOLIO

#### Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

**Question:** E13-020

**OUTCOME:** 0 – Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Departmental Reviews

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Question:**

Since 7 September 2013, how many new Reviews have been commenced? Please list them including:

- a) The date they were ordered
- b) The date they commenced
- c) The minister responsible
- d) The department responsible
- e) The nature of the review
- f) Their terms of reference
- g) The scope of the review
- h) Who is conducting the review
- i) The number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
- j) The expected report date
- k) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.

**Answer:**

Three reviews have commenced since 7 September 2013 (as at 22 January 2014); the Review of Medicare Locals, the Review of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record Program; and the National Mental Health Commission's Review of mental health programmes.

**Medicare Locals**

- a) The incoming Government announced the Review of Medicare Locals as an election commitment through a Media Release on 24 May 2013 (see: <http://www.peterdutton.com.au/Home/LatestNews/tabid/94/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/388/Coalition-to-review-Medicare-Locals.aspx>). The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport announced details of the Review through a Media Release on 16 December 2013 (see: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2013-dutton025.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2013&mth=12>)
- b) 2 December 2013.
- c) The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport.

- d) The Department of Health.
- e) To ensure Medicare Local funding is being spent as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- f) The Terms of Reference for the Review are in the Minister's 16 December 2013 Media Release: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2013-dutton025.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2013&mth=12>

g) and h)

The Review will have three components:

- A review of the functioning of Medicare Locals to improve their effectiveness and efficiency, to be undertaken by Ernst & Young. This review will build on the Medicare Locals Evaluation, which concluded in December 2013.
- An Independent Financial Audit of all Medicare Locals. This will be undertaken by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited.
- An opportunity for stakeholder feedback to be provided directly to Government on the role and functioning of Medicare Locals. This will be managed by the Department of Health.

The Review will be overseen by Principal Medical Consultant to the Department of Health, Professor John Horvarth AO.

- i) External consultants as described above are undertaking elements of the Review. A departmental secretariat comprises:
  - 2 Executive Level 1 officers; and
  - 1 APS 6 officer.
- j) Advice is expected to be provided to the Government in March 2014.
- k) This will be a decision for the Government.

### **Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) Program**

- a) 14 October 2013.
- b) 4 November 2013, review panel commenced.
- c) The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport.
- d) Department of Health.
- e) Review of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record Program.

f) and g)

The Terms of Reference and scope of the Review are in the Minister's 3 November 2013 Media Release: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2013-dutton010.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2013&mth=11>

- h) Mr Richard Royle, Executive Director, UnitingCare Health Group;  
Dr Steve Hambleton, President, Australian Medical Association;  
Mr Andrew Walduck, Chief Information Officer, Australia Post; and  
Mr Nicholas Nuske, sole employee of Nascent Design Consulting.

- i) Nil.
- j) The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport received the report on 20 December 2013 (see the Media Release:  
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2013-dutton028.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2013&mth=12>)
- k) This will be a decision for the Government.

### **The National Mental Health Commission's Review of Mental Health Programmes**

- a) The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, announced this review through a Media Release on 10 October 2013 (see:  
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2013-dutton001.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2013&mth=10>)
- b) The National Mental Health Commission has commenced project planning for the review.
- c) The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Sport.
- d) The National Mental Health Commission.
- e) See the Minister's Media Release of 10 October 2013.
- f) The decision to release these publicly, and the timing of any release, are matters for the Minister.
- g) Please refer to part e) above.
- h) The National Mental Health Commission.
- i) This is still being finalised.
- j) and k)  
The decision to release the report publicly, and the timing of any release, are matters for the Minister.