

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 8-9

Topic: National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS)

Hansard Page: pg 53, Thursday 18 October 2012

Senator FIFIELD asked:

Senator FIFIELD: With respect to the National Injury Insurance Scheme, what is the main oversight body for progressing the National Injury Insurance Scheme? I note that there is an NIIS Advisory Group. Is there a ministerial level group above that? Or does the NIIS Advisory Group just report directly to Minister Shorten?

Mr Ray: The NIIS Advisory Group reports to Minister Shorten. Obviously then there is the question of cabinet. Leaving that aside, at the Commonwealth-state level there is a—what is it called—standing council of treasurers and disability ministers. That is, if you like, the body that sits between Minister Shorten and COAG.

Senator FIFIELD: Is there a senior officials working group as well?

Mr Ray: There is a senior officials working group, which I co-chair, and there is a group within NIIS of Commonwealth-state officials.

Senator FIFIELD: How often has the NIIS Advisory Group met since it was established? (sbt 8)

Ms Cattermole: I will have to take that on notice. I do not have that with me.

Senator FIFIELD: And how many are in the senior officials group?

Mr Ray: The senior officials working group?

Senator FIFIELD: Yes.

Mr Ray: Many is the short answer but, if you want the exact number, I will have to take it on notice.

Senator FIFIELD: And the last time they met? I assume minutes are prepared for each of those meetings?

Mr Ray: They are.

Senator FIFIELD: Has an issues discussion paper been produced for discussion between the jurisdictions?

Ms Cattermole: The Commonwealth is developing a paper for discussion with states and territories about the interrelationship between the NIIS and the NDIS as part of those overall discussions.

Senator FIFIELD: But that has not been produced?

Mr Ray: A number of papers have been prepared and discussed between Commonwealth and state officials on the NIIS.

Senator FIFIELD: What is the one that—

Ms Cattermole: This is working through all the elements of an NIIS and its relationship with the NDIS. This is part of those ongoing discussions.

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Senator FIFIELD: That piece of work has not yet been concluded to circulate to jurisdictions?

Ms Cattermole: That is correct.

Senator FIFIELD: Are you able to take on notice and give me a list of titles or topics covered by those discussion papers? (sbt 9)

Mr Ray: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

8. The NIIS Advisory Group has met three times since it was established.
9. The NIIS Senior Officials group has considered discussion papers on four topics:
 - an initial discussion paper on NIIS issues;
 - a scoping of NIIS minimum benchmarks for motor vehicles;
 - NIIS minimum benchmarks for motor vehicles; and
 - Interactions between the NIIS and the NDIS.