

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-488

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: MONITORING OF STAFF NUMBERS IN HEALTH BUREAUCRACIES

Hansard Page: CA 12

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Mr Swan and Ms Roxon, in their joint ministerial releases, have made this assertion about no net increase to bureaucracy, but how are you going to deliver that? What is your starting point to measure that?

Answer:

The National Health Reform Agreement signed by the Commonwealth and all states and territories on 2 August 2011 commits, at clause 17, the signees to implement the arrangements of the Agreement:

“with no net increase in bureaucracy across Commonwealth and state governments as a proportion of the ongoing health workforce.”

It is expected that the starting point to measure this will be available statistics on health Department staffing and the total health workforce.

Changes to the staffing structure in the Department of Health and Ageing brought about by the National Health Reforms and a strategic review of administrative arrangements within the Department will see staff numbers decrease by 12 per cent in 2013 from 2010-11 levels. This will result in an overall reduction of 420 positions within the Department.

The Commonwealth notes the recent NSW Government State Budget announcement that restructuring of the NSW health work force will result in 300 fewer administrative positions with the consequent reduction in bureaucracy freeing up more than \$80 million for frontline health services.