

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD01

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Within the \$5.4 billion Commonwealth funding what measures are new spending? Please include the inputs, assumptions and modelling underpinning these funding amounts?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD02

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Within the \$5.4 billion Commonwealth funding what is re-directed from existing programs and or areas? What is the impact on these existing programs?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals

7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD03

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What are the projected savings in existing health programs across the forward estimates from these new financial arrangements, please including the inputs, assumptions and modelling underpinning these funding amounts?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD04

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the projected number of additional and new services this additional funding will provide:

- in elective surgery treatments;
- in emergency department treatments;
- in expected numbers of patients to sign up to the diabetes spending measure; and
- number of general practitioner (GP) treatments in aged care facilities.

Please provide the inputs, assumptions and modelling underpinning these projections for all the above measures?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals

7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD05

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Within the \$15.6 billion top-up payments guaranteed to the states by the Commonwealth in the period 2014-15 to 2019-20, please provide the breakdown of expenditure relating to:

- hospitals;
- outpatient services;
- capital expenditure;
- GP and primary healthcare;
- aged care; and
- other areas of health expenditure.

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Treasury as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD06

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Within the National Health and Hospitals Network please provide the names, roles, structures, operations, resourcing, funding and staffing of any new statutory bodies, organisations or other entities needed to establish, oversee, monitor, report upon or administer the National Health and Hospital Networks, Primary Care Organisations and the funding channels to be established under the COAG agreements?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD07

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What arrangements are in place, or are being negotiated for states that have not signed up, nor fully signed up to the COAG agreements, including what contingencies have been put in place for states that may want to alter agreements in future?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD08

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Who will have final approval of the number and size of Local Hospital Networks in each state and territory?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
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Question no: DoFD09

OUTCOME13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide the number of hospitals which will receive: activity-based funding, block grant funding, or a mix of both?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD10

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravavanti-Wells asked:

I understand that the National Funding Authority falls under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, in this respect will the staff be employees of the Australian Public Service and if so how many staff will be employed?

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD11

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravavanti-Wells asked:

I understand that the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided the costing of \$1.6 billion for 1,316 sub acute beds. Please can you provide the number of beds that the additional \$800 million provided in the COAG agreement will also provide?

Answer:

As identified at Senate Estimates on 26 May 2010 (F&PA page 34), the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) was not involved in the development of the additional \$800 million which the Australian Government offered during COAG.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question no: DoFD12

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravavanti-Wells asked:

When the Department costed the elements of the hospitals and health plan did it take into account the marginal recurrent cost of adding beds and whether this varies from state to state?

Answer:

The marginal cost of beds state by state was not taken into account. The variety of factors influencing the cost of a sub-acute bed, including variability between states and territories, resulted in an average national cost per bed being assumed.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
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Question no: DoFD13

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

When the Department costed the elements of the hospitals and health plan what assumptions did it take into account?

Answer:

In costing the National Health and Hospitals Reform Plan, it was assumed that existing policies and associated funding would remain in place unless changes to current practice were specifically identified.

Further assumptions were made for individual policy proposals based on the nature of the proposal.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD14

OUTCOME 12

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

I understand that the Department were involved in costing some additional workforce measures that were announced very early on in the health reform process and that this took into account the ability of the existing doctor and nurse workforce to service the new sub acute beds at existing service levels. Please provide the assumptions that were used for these costings?

Answer:

The workforce measures announced by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health and Aging in joint press releases on 15 March 2010 are:

- National Health and Hospitals Network – Workforce – more general practice training rotations for junior doctors;
- National Health and Hospitals Network – Workforce – more places on the General Practice Training Program; and
- National Health and Hospitals Network – Workforce – training specialist doctors.

Costing of the workforce measures was on the basis of additional places to existing programs to meet the training needs of medical graduates.

The capacity of the existing health workforce to service sub acute beds is taken into account in determining the cost of a sub acute bed rather than in the workforce costings themselves.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD15

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravavanti-Wells asked:

What is the unit cost per bed that the Department of Finance and Deregulation used in the costings?

Answer:

This question has been referred to the Department of Health and Ageing. The hospital bed costs were agreed at CoAG based on negotiations with the States and Territories involving the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. As indicated in our response to DoFD11, Finance was not involved in these negotiations.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD16

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravavanti-Wells asked:

What assumptions did the Department of Finance and Deregulation use to determine the costing of \$251.4 million over five years to expand capacity within the hospital system for emergency department treatment?

Answer:

The funding envelope of \$251.4 million was determined by the Department of Health and Ageing. It is essentially a pool of funds for distribution to the states and territories on a per capita basis.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD17

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravavanti-Wells asked:

Please provide the detail underlying the costings for the improving access to elective surgery?

Answer

The capital funding provided is based on the approximate cost of building ten purpose designed elective surgery centres with funds to be allocated to the states and territories on a population needs basis. The reward funding is a funding pool to be distributed to the states and territories when they meet identified targets.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD18

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

When did the Department of Health and Ageing approach the Department of Finance and Deregulation to provide costings for all the measures in the National Health and Hospitals Network plan, please include measures announced on 3 March 2010 and measures announced prior to COAG meeting on 19th and 20th April and measures agreed to during the COAG meeting?

Answer:

As identified at Senate Estimates on 26 May 2010 (F&PA page 33) Finance was involved in costings through various stages of the process, as options were being assessed and delivered. Formal costing agreement of National Health and Hospitals Network measures commenced on 17 February 2010.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD19

OUTCOME 13

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What percentage of public hospitals in Australia have block funding. Please provide a list of them in each State.

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD20

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What documents have been provided to the Commonwealth or to any Commonwealth Minister by any State or Territory department or Minister in relation to any hospital closure/s including when they were provided and by whom were they provided. Please provide copies of such documents.

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD21

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide details of all discussions between State and Territory Departments or Ministers and Commonwealth Departments or Ministers in relation to the formation, location or boundaries of the local hospital networks, including any documents or other records of the Commonwealth or provided to the Commonwealth by any State or Territory.

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD22

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please provide details of any modelling provided by any State or Territory or available to the Commonwealth or prepared by the Commonwealth in relation to case mix funding.

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals
7 June 2010

Question no: DoFD23

OUTCOME 0

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Hansard Page: CA

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the evidence given at the hearing, please provide details of all discussions between the Commonwealth and NSW regarding the future of the current Area Health Services including copies of any letters, documents or other information.

Answer:

This question is being handled by the Department of Health and Ageing as the more appropriate agency to provide a response.