

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants

Inquiry into the administration and award of funding under the Community Sports Infrastructure Grant Program

27 August 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000703

Communication between PM&C and the Department of Health

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 1

Senator: Nita Green

Question:

Senator GREEN: Thank you very much for being here this evening. The committee has heard that many of the documents and communications in relation to the sports grants program were provided by Sport Australia to the minister's office at the time, through Department of Health, because Sport Australia didn't have access to the Parliamentary Document Management System. Did the secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet request any information, communications or documents from the health department in preparing his report on the sports grants program for the Prime Minister?

Ms Edwards: I'm not sure I know the answer to that question, only because we've had a change of personnel and it's not one in particular. Perhaps Ms Musgrave might be able to?

Senator GREEN: Is there someone who does have—

Ms Edwards: We're talking about the community sports infrastructure report that Mr Gaetjens did?

Senator GREEN: That's correct; the report that he provided to the Prime Minister. What information did he seek from the Department of Health in order to prepare that report?

Ms Edwards: I don't know the answer, but we could probably endeavour to find that out during the hearing. Perhaps Ms Musgrave could make a call and see if we can find out the answer to the question as to whether any documents were requested.

Senator GREEN: Do you know if it's a yes or a no?

Ms Edwards: I don't know.

Senator GREEN: You don't know, and there's no-one in the room who can answer that question?

Ms Edwards: Not at the moment, but we can make a call.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet requested the Department of Health provide the following documents during the preparation of Mr Gaetjens' report under the Statement of Ministerial Standards:

- Ministerial submissions lodged by Sport Australia in respect of each funding round of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant program.
- An email from the then Minister for Sport's adviser, with the attached spreadsheet and word document referred to at section 3.20 of the Australian National Audit Office Report into the Administration of the Community Sport Infrastructure Grant program.