

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-202

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

July 1st is the second anniversary of the inception of the Healthcare Identifier Service. The COAG meeting in December 2009 agreed to the commission and review of the HI Service. This apparently would take 1-year to produce, another 6-months to produce some recommendations, then an additional 6-months to make a decision on those recommendations, so in effect taking 2-years to review a service and make decisions on a service that was only operational for 2-years.

- a) What is the justification by DOHA for the protracted period this review of the HI Service will take?
- b) Can this present forecasted time-table be altered to have the review executed and decisions made in a more accelerated time-frame, say 3-6 months?

Answer:

a) and b)

The Department of Health and Ageing expects to deliver the report on the review of the Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Act and the HI Service to the Minister of Health by 31 December 2012, instead of the prescribed date of 30 June 2013, as identified in the HI Act. The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council have agreed to this revised date.