

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-12, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-414

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: CONSULTANCIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to consultancies valued at \$10,000 or above.

There is a consultancy here to 'consultant names removed due to Freedom of Information Act 1982 to conduct external medicine evaluation \$4.2 million'. Can you give the rationale behind why that was removed?

Answer:

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) uses scientists and doctors outside the organisation to evaluate data submitted by companies for the registration of therapeutic goods. Evaluations undertaken for the purposes of regulatory approval commonly involve products, such as medicines, that are of significant commercial value and may be sensitive in the community, and it has been TGA's practice to maintain the confidentiality of the evaluator performing the work.