

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-010

**OUTCOME 1:** Population Health

**Topic:** Research Grants Approval

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 38, 13 February 2013

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

Can you take on notice when the minister first learned there had been a variation and who approved the variation? Were there any factual errors in the subsequent advice provided to the minister? What was the inaccuracy in the advice to the minister? Why did it occur and who was responsible?

**Answer:**

The first tranche of research grants was approved by the Minister for Health in January 2012. Following receipt of legal advice relating to the applicability of GST to the grants, the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (the CEO) approved a variation to the grant amounts to include the respective GST components on 17 April 2012. This approval did not vary the amount of GST exclusive funding previously approved by the Minister.

The agency advised the Minister on 26 October 2012 that the CEO had approved this variation and provided details of the GST inclusive amount of funding for all approved grants. The Minister approved the GST inclusive funding and as part of this approval the Minister also approved amended funding for one grant.

The amendment to the previously approved grant arose from a revised budget submitted by a recommended applicant which did not contain a full project costing.