

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-083

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Reviews

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

For this financial year to date:

- a) How many Reviews are being undertaken?
- b) What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
- c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- d) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- e) Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
- f) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- g) What reviews are planned?
- h) When will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

In answering this question, the Department has interpreted the term 'review' to refer to major policy reviews commissioned at Ministerial level. This answer excludes internal reviews which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes reviews which are conducted as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health and Ageing Portfolio.

Answers to questions a) – h) are outlined in the following tables:

a) A total of ten reviews are underway across the health and ageing portfolio in the 2012-13 financial year to date.					
b) Review title	b) Date of completion	c) Date provided to Govt	d) Date of Govt Response	e) Response within timeframes*	f) Est cost (\$)
Mid-term Review of the Implementation Plan of the five National Strategies for Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections	Expected completion end 2012-13	—	Not applicable	Not applicable	75,000 (GST incl)
Review of Blood Sector Risk Management	Expected completion Dec 2013 to June 2014	—	Not applicable	Not applicable	895,940 (GST excl)
Minimum (Floor) Pricing for Alcohol	Expected completion March 2013	—	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$79,900 (GST incl)
Review of the <i>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998</i>	31 August 2012	12 October 2012	Not applicable	Not applicable	150,000 (GST incl)
Review of Health and Medical Research	Completed February 2013	28 February 2013	To be advised	Not applicable	2,990,000 (GST incl)
Evaluation of the National Continence Program	Expected completion 31 May 2014	—	Not applicable	Not applicable	485,100 (GST incl)
Review of the National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme	Expected completion July 2013	—	Not applicable	Not applicable	1,461,974 (GST excl)
Review of Anticoagulation Therapies in Atrial Fibrillation	October 2012	November 2012	December 2012	Not applicable	400,000 (GST excl)
Review of Australian Government Health Workforce Programs	Expected completion 31 March 2013	—	Not applicable	Not applicable	330,000 (GST incl)
Evaluation of the National Palliative Care Program	Expected completion 31 March 2013	-	Not applicable	Not applicable	255,777 (GST incl)

* Reviews are considered to belong to Government. The Department is unable to comment on deadlines.

Planned Reviews

The following reviews are planned for the 2012-13 financial year	
g) Review title	h) Expected date of completion
Alcohol Advertising – Voluntary Code	Mid-2013
Evaluation of the Health and Hospitals Fund	30 June 2013
Under the Living Longer Living Better package, the Government announced that there would be reviews of transport, meals, and home modifications and maintenance services as currently delivered under the Commonwealth Home and Community Care Program in order to prepare for the implementation of the Commonwealth Home Support Program from 1 July 2015.	These reviews will commence in 2012 – 2013 and will be completed in 2013 – 2014.
Review of drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services	Planning is currently underway for this review to commence during 2012-13. The expected completion date is 31 March 2014