

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-176

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ACSQHC Three Year Data Plan

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Has the ACSQHC developed a three year data plan, in accordance with the National Health Reform Agreement?
- b) Has any direction been provided to the ACSQHC about the adequacy or otherwise of a data plan?
- c) What progress has been made to streamlining and rationalising of data requirements and of progress towards a national data repository?
- d) Is there any information available on the total national costs to providers, States and Territories and other relevant entities of new data requirements and requests by Commonwealth agencies?
- e) When will a single provision multiple use data set be operational?
- f) What action is the Commonwealth taking to ensure Commonwealth and national agencies are working together to achieve this outcome and when will it be achieved?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) is not required by the National Health Reform Agreement to produce a data plan.

However, as indicated by Professor Debora Picone at the additional estimates hearing on 13 February 2013, the Commission is developing a 2013-16 data plan, to support its Work Plan for that period. The development of the Commission's data plan is nearing completion.

- b) No, the data plan is currently in development. The Commission will engage with the jurisdictions and clinician groups in the next phase of its development.

- c) The Commonwealth, in concert with all states and territories, participates in the National Health Information Performance Principle Committee (NHIPPC). The NHIPPC has commissioned and received a report on the rationalisation of data reporting requirements seeking to operationalize a “report once and use multiple times” principle. The NHIPPC has considered the report and recommendations and is now in the process of developing the cost benefit statement across the recommendations. Within these recommendations was the consideration of a national data repository which is expected to be explored as a priority within the overall set of recommendations.
- d) No, but it is expected that the Commonwealth agencies will re-use performance information that is already provided by states and territories before seeking additional performance data.
- e) This is a matter which is being discussed and agreed across all jurisdictions through the NHIPPC.
- f) The Commonwealth has brought all of the Commonwealth agencies together in a data governance role to ensure that common and consistent approaches are being applied to the data plans and requirements.