

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-182

**OUTCOME 12:** Health Workforce Capacity

**Topic:** National Health Reform Agreement

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

- a) Has the HWA developed a three year data plan, in accordance with the National Health Reform Agreement?
- b) Has any direction been provided to the HWA 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) Under the National Health Reform Agreement, HWA is not one of the agencies listed which is required to develop a three year data plan.
- b) Not applicable
- 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.