

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000281

OUTCOME: 4 - Acute Care

Topic: Potential Merger of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Australian Bureau of Statistics

Type of Question: Hansard Page 105, 25 February 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: When was the potential merger of AIHW and ABS first discussed in the department?

Mr Bowles: Again, that is advice to government.

Senator McLUCAS: No, I do not mean in terms of advice to government. When was work started in the department about the potential?

Mr Bowles: I do not want to confirm one way or the other, because we have talked about the Health Productivity and Performance Commission and the ABS. As I said, this is an issue before government for government to make.

Senator McLUCAS: Minister, are you, or your senior minister, having conversations with— ABS is in Treasury, isn't it?—

Mr Bowles: Yes, Treasury.

Senator McLUCAS: the Treasurer about this potential merger?

Senator Nash: I am not aware.

Senator McLUCAS: Can you find out for us?

Senator Nash: I can take that on notice, certainly.

Answer:

Any potential merger of the AIHW and ABS is a decision for Government.