

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

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Topic: Federation White Paper

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Senator: Reynolds, Linda

Question:

Senator Reynolds: One more question on notice. It seems that the Federation white paper process might be a good opportunity to have federal and state interagency reviews of how they can better deliver an integrated service at the grassroots level. Have there been any discussions in that space yet that you are aware of?

Mr Bowles: There have been a lot of discussions around the Federation white paper in relation to health - other agencies have been dealing with it in their own portfolios. Has it gone specifically to that? I do not recall. But I can take that on notice to see if there is anything specific to what you are talking about now. Clearly, the Federation white paper is about trying to sort out the complexities between the Commonwealth and the states and territories, which have been there for a long time. I think we do have an opportunity going forward with the Primary health Networks, because they are a different construct. I think they might take some time to themselves up to speed on some of these issues, but I think there is an opportunity. From my perspective I am trying to look at the system more broadly to see how we might do some of these sorts of things.

Senator Reynolds: So if you could take on notice just where the interface could be at a local level. The other thing we have found with the inquiry already is that the various systems are spending a lot of money on these individual, even just for aged care and other support, but it is not necessarily meeting their needs. If we did that there could be a lot of savings there and we would have a much better outcome for the individual. Thank you.

Answer:

Yes. As part of the White Paper on Reform of the Federation process, Commonwealth and state/territory agencies are discussing possible models for integrated service delivery at the local level.