

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000013

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Speech Pathology

Type of Question: Hansard Page 37, 10 February 2016

Senator: Brown, Carol

Question:

- a) Where we are at with the government responses into the out-of-pocket costs in Australia [and also] in relation to the speech pathology community affairs report?
- b) In terms of the speech pathology report, how many drafts have you put together?
- c) Could you please provide us with a list of who you have been consulting with in terms of the government's speech pathology response?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health is awaiting input from the Victorian Government to progress the government response to the Senate Inquiry on the prevalence of different types of speech, language and communication disorders and speech pathology services in Australia (Senate Inquiry). Once this has been received, the whole of government response will be progressed through the usual government approval processes.
See SQ16-000240 for information on the response to the Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into out-of-pockets costs in Australian healthcare.
- b) The Department of Health has led the coordination of the whole of government response to the Senate Inquiry. This has been an iterative process, rather than one of producing sequential drafts.
- c) Input to the whole of government response to the Senate Inquiry was provided by state and territory governments, the Attorney-General's Department, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.