

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

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OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Payment Services

Type of Question: Hansard Page 6, 10 February 2016

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: I can understand that it has not gone to the government for a decision, but presumably with a piece of work of this size there would be government approval for this work to be undertaken.

Mr Bowles: That is correct.

Senator GALLAGHER: Would that have gone through standard government processes—

Mr Bowles: Yes, it would have.

Senator GALLAGHER: Through the cabinet or the minister through to the cabinet?

Mr Bowles: Through the normal processes, through the minister.

Senator GALLAGHER: Did that occur back at the 2014 stage?

Mr Bowles: I cannot remember exact dates. I would have to take that on notice if you want exact dates around some of those things.

Senator GALLAGHER: That would be useful.

Answer:

The work being undertaken has followed normal Government processes. Approval to conduct the 2014 Expression of Interest (EoI) was provided and announced by Government as part of the 2014-2015 Budget. The Department of Health has now established a Digital Payments Services Taskforce to undertake further consideration and provide advice on taking the 2014 EoI work forward.