

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000311

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Private Health Insurance

Type of Question: Hansard Page 104, 10 February 2016

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: So it was an idea of the minister in terms of shaping her reform agenda?

Mr Cormack: The minister wanted some specific advice to be provided on options to assess the PHI policy program product and also to look at some options for consideration by government. In responding to that request, we have provided advice to the minister that included an extensive consultation process inclusive of surveys. This is not an uncommon approach when we look at complex policy areas such as private health insurance.

Senator GALLAGHER: Has there been market research done, more targeted traditional information gathering in this area?

Mr Cormack: I would have to take that on notice. Perhaps Mr Stuart, who has been around a bit longer than I have, might have some further advice. But I cannot definitively say what research has been undertaken going back over the many years.

Answer:

In relation to the current reform process, the Department of Health engaged ORC International in October 2015 to provide market research services to support and inform the Government's private health insurance consultations. ORC International was required to undertake two market research activities: an online consultation survey which was structured around a largely quantitative questionnaire; and a qualitative consultation, conducted as a series of focus groups.