

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000414

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** MBS Review

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

- a) How many subcommittees does the Taskforce have? How many times have they met?
- b) What are the costs associated with the operation of the Taskforce, including sitting fees for members?
- c) How many Departmental staff are responsible for supporting the Taskforce and its sub-committees?

**Answer:**

- a) There are 18 Clinical Committees as follows:
  - Diagnostic Imaging;
  - Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery;
  - Gastroenterology;
  - Obstetrics;
  - Pathology;
  - Thoracic Medicine;
  - Cardiac;
  - Dermatology, Allergy and Immunology;
  - Endocrinology;
  - Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine;
  - Oncology;
  - Renal;
  - Spinal Surgery;
  - Anaesthesia;
  - General Practice and Primary Care;
  - Gynaecology;
  - Orthopaedics; and
  - Diagnostic Medicine.

Some of these Clinical Committees also have Working Groups (48 to date).

As at 1 March 2017, there have been approximately 240 meetings held on these Clinical Committees and Working Groups.

- b) From 1 July 2015 until 1 March 2017, total administered expenditure for the Taskforce comprised \$8.2 million.
- c) As at 1 March 2017, there were 30 FTE departmental staff that directly support the MBS Review.