

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11- 084

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: CONSTITUTION OF PANELS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Back asked:

- a) Why didn't the Director of the PSR / PSR they follow procedure in appointing the Deputy Director and reported more than 100 panel members?
- b) Can you clarify for me whether of these panel members there are any retired or part-time practitioners and the number of each?

Answer:

- a) PSR cannot comment on this matter as it is currently before the Federal Court of Australia.
- b) All practitioners appointed to the Panel must:
 - be a currently registered or licensed practitioner within the meaning of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*;
 - be currently practicing (at least on a part time basis);
 - have sufficient experience in, and knowledge of, current medical practice in his or her specialty as to be able to represent their body of peers, usually demonstrated by at least 15 years practice experience;
 - be recognised by their relevant professional organisation as a suitable member of their profession and specialty to represent their peers on a Committee.

PSR is unaware of any members on the former panel who were retired.