

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-071

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Reviews

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Smith

Question:

For this financial year to date:

- a) How many Reviews are being undertaken?
- b) What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
- c) Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
- d) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- e) Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
- f) What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews?
- g) What reviews are planned?
- h) When will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

In answering this question, the Department of Health and Ageing has interpreted the term 'review' to refer to major policy reviews commissioned at Ministerial level. This answer excludes internal reviews which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes reviews which are conducted as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health Portfolio.

Answers to questions a) to h), as at the time the questions were asked, are outlined in the following tables:

a) A total of twenty one (21) reviews are underway across the Health and Ageing portfolio in the 2012-13 financial year to date.

b) Review title	b) Date of completion	c) Date provided to Govt	d) Date of Govt Response	e) Response within timeframes*	f) Est cost (\$)
Update of National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategies	31 December 2013	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	73,260 (GST incl)
Mid-term Review of the Implementation Plan of the five National Strategies for Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections	End 2012-13	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	75,000 (GST incl)
Review of Blood Sector Risk Management	Expected completion December 2013 to June 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	1,100,000 (GST excl)
Review of Blood Sector Risk Governance	June 2013	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	198,600 (GST incl)
Review of the <i>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998</i>	31 August 2012	12 October 2012	Not applicable	Not applicable	150,000 (GST incl)
Review of Health and Medical Research	Completed February 2013	28 February 2013	To be advised	Not applicable	2,990,900 (GST incl)
Evaluation of the National Continence Program	Expected completion 31 May 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	485,100 (GST incl)
Review of the National Industrial Chemical Notification and Assessment Scheme	Expected completion December 2013 to June 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	1,461,974 (GST excl)
Review of Anticoagulation Therapies in Atrial Fibrillation	October 2012	November 2012	December 2012	Not applicable	400,000 (GST excl)
Review of Australian Government Health Workforce Programs	3 May 2013	3 May 2013	Not applicable	Not applicable	150,294 (GST incl)
Evaluation of the National Palliative Care Program	Expected completion July 2013	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	255,777 (GST incl)
Review of arrangements for the scheduling of substances (medicines and poisons)	Expected completion August 2013	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	100,000 (GST excl)
Review of drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services	Expected completion June 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	944,765 (GST excl)

a) A total of twenty one (21) reviews are underway across the Health and Ageing portfolio in the 2012-13 financial year to date.					
b) Review title	b) Date of completion	c) Date provided to Govt	d) Date of Govt Response	e) Response within timeframes*	f) Est cost (\$)
Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies	Expected completion end 2013	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	800,000 (GST incl)
National Evaluation of the National Partnership on Preventive Health	Expected completion June 2015	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	1,172,275 (GST incl)
Minimum (Floor) Pricing for Alcohol	Completed April 2013	2 May 2013		Not applicable	114,000 (GST incl)
Alcohol Advertising: the effectiveness of current regulatory codes in addressing community concerns	Expected completion end 2013	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	80,000 (GST incl)
Review of the Schedule of Specified Care and Services for Residential Care Services (Schedule 1, <i>Quality of Care Principles</i> under the <i>Aged Care Act 1997</i>).	Expected completion 30 June 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	225,000 (GST incl)
Review of HACC meal services	Expected completion 31 March 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	235,000 (GST incl)
Review of HACC transport services	Expected completion 31 March 2014	–	Not applicable	Not applicable	325,000 (GST incl)
Review of the Aged Care Planning Regions and HACC Planning Regions	Expected completion 31 Dec 2013	–	–	–	144,775 (GST incl)

* Reviews are considered to belong to Government. The Department is unable to comment on deadlines.

Planned Reviews

The following reviews are planned for the 2012-13 financial year	
g) Review title	h) Expected date of completion
Evaluation of the Health and Hospitals Fund	The Framework for the evaluation of the Health and Hospitals Fund was completed by 30 June 2013. The evaluation of the Health and Hospitals Fund is scheduled for 2013-14.
Under the Living Longer Living Better package, the Government announced that there would be reviews of transport, meals, and home modifications and maintenance services as currently delivered under the Commonwealth Home and Community Care Program in order to prepare for the implementation of the Commonwealth Home Support Program from 1 July 2015.	The reviews of HACC meal services and transport commenced in 2012-13 and will be completed in 2013-14. The reviews of HACC home modifications and maintenance will be undertaken in 2013-14.