

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-080

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Smith

Question:

- a) How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

a) to c)

The term 'reports' is fairly broad and ambiguous. In answering this question, the Department of Health and Ageing has interpreted it to refer to major policy associated reports, asked for by Cabinet or the Minister. This answer excludes internal reports which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes report publications which are produced as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health Portfolio.

Answers to questions a), b) and c), as at the time the questions were asked, appear in the table at Attachment A.

Attachment A

a) The Number of Reports Commissioned by the Government in the Department of Health and Ageing in 2012-13 was four (4).	
Preliminary Report of the Commission on Delivery of Health Services in Tasmania	
a) Date Commissioned	The <i>Commission on Delivery of Health Services in Tasmania</i> (the Commission) was announced on 13 September 2012. The delivery of a Preliminary Report was a requirement under the Commission's Terms of Reference, agreed between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Health Ministers.
a) Date report handed to government	21 December 2012
a) Date of public release	25 February 2013
a) Terms of reference	The Preliminary Report outlined the Commission's initial ideas about key opportunities for structural and system improvement within the Tasmanian health system.
a) Committee members	Mr Alan Bansemer, Dr Heather Wellington and Dr Alasdair MacDonald.
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	The estimated cost of the Commission to 31 December 2012, including delivery of its Preliminary Report, was approximately \$175,500.
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	The secretariat services for the Commission are being provided by the Department of Health and Ageing. The officers concerned are performing other work as well as supporting the work of the Commission. As such, the exact number of staff who were involved in the development of the Preliminary Report is difficult to quantify. The staff that were involved were across APS and EL levels.
c) Current Status	Completed.
c) Date of expected Government Response	N/A

Advice on Significant Refurbishment	
a) Date Commissioned	1 August 2012
a) Date report handed to government	21 November 2012
a) Date of public release	21 December 2012
a) Terms of reference	Advice on appropriateness of the interim definition of the level of refurbishment required for an aged care home to be eligible for the higher level of the Accommodation Supplement ('the significant refurbishment criteria').
a) Committee members	Ms Lynda O'Grady, Prof Graeme Hugo, Mr Graham Hodges, Ms Sally Evans, Ms Sue Lines, Mr Paul Gregersen, Mr Ian Yates, Mr Nick Mersiades.
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	Estimated cost \$35,000
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	The Finance and Funding Branch of the Aged Care and Ageing Division provides policy and secretariat support to the Aged Care Financing Authority. Approximately 5 staff had some involvement in this task. The staff that were involved were across APS and EL levels.
c) Current Status	Completed.
c) Date of expected Government Response	21 December 2012

Advice on Accommodation Payments	
a) Date Commissioned	1 August 2012
a) Date report handed to government	28 November 2012
a) Date of public release	21 December 2012
a) Terms of reference	<p>Advice on the methodology to govern the level (or levels) of the Accommodation Payments that an Approved Provider can levy on care recipients for entry to an aged care home from 1 July 2014, including advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the Rate of Return on Equity for efficient providers in the residential aged care sector necessary to ensure that investment will continue to be made in the aged care industry at the rate needed to meet the demand for services; ii) the Rate of Return on Operations for efficient providers in the residential aged care sector necessary to ensure Approved Providers are appropriately rewarded for the operational risks inherent in operating an aged care business; iii) how 'efficiency' should be defined and determined, to take account of the unavoidably higher cost structures faced by some aged care providers; iv) how the level (or levels) of Accommodation Payments for aged care homes should be set – for example, by establishing benchmarks and bands for different sorts of aged care home with applications for variation on an exception basis – and whether these issues should be considered at the provider or at the aged care home level. v) the impact of removing retention amounts on accommodation bonds, the cooling off period for a resident to decide the method for paying their accommodation payment, and the requirement to insure lump sum accommodation payments. <p>Advice on the appropriate methodology to ensure Lump Sum Accommodation Payments and Periodic Accommodation Payments are financially equivalent for providers.</p>
a) Committee members	Ms Lynda O'Grady, Prof Graeme Hugo, Mr Graham Hodges, Ms Sally Evans, Ms Sue Lines, Mr Paul Gregersen, Mr Ian Yates, Mr Nick Mersiades.
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	Estimated cost \$122,000
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	The Finance and Funding Branch of the Aged Care and Ageing Division provides policy and secretariat support to the Aged Care Financing Authority. Approximately 5 staff had some involvement in this task. The staff that were involved were across APS and EL levels.
c) Current Status	Completed.
c) Date of expected Government Response	21 December 2012

Advice on Operating Framework	
a) Date Commissioned	1 August 2012
a) Date report handed to government	28 September 2012
a) Date of public release	26 October 2012
a) Terms of reference	Advice on the Authority's Interim Operating Framework.
a) Committee members	Ms Lynda O'Grady, Prof Graeme Hugo, Mr Graham Hodges, Ms Sally Evans, Ms Sue Lines, Mr Paul Gregersen, Mr Ian Yates, Mr Nick Mersiades.
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	Estimated cost \$9,000
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	The Finance and Funding Branch of the Aged Care and Ageing Division provides policy and secretariat support to the Aged Care Financing Authority. Three to four staff were involved in this task. The staff that were involved were across APS and EL levels.
c) Current Status	Completed
c) Date of expected Government Response	26 October 2012