

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000860

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Reviews

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

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

1. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
  - a) The date they were ordered;
  - b) The date they commenced;
  - c) The minister responsible;
  - d) The department responsible;
  - e) The nature of the review;
  - f) Their terms of reference;
  - g) The scope of the review;
  - h) Who is conducting the review;
  - i) The number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review;
  - j) The expected report date;
  - k) The budgeted, projected or expected costs; and
  - l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.
  
2. For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
  - a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names.
  - b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent.
  - c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item.
  - d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement.
  - e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
  - f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them.
  - g) If yes, for each, who selected them.
  - h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them.
  - i) If yes, please detail what involvement it was.
  - j) If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list.
  - k) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur.
  - l) If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department.

- m) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur.
3. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, what reviews are on-going?
    - a) Please list them.
    - b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
  4. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
  5. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
  6. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
  7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
  8. What reviews are planned?
    - a) When will each planned review be commenced?
    - b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
    - c) When will government respond to each review?
    - d) Will the government release each review?
    - e) If so, when? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

1. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, no new reviews have commenced.

The Department of Health has interpreted the term ‘review’ to refer to major policy reviews undertaken by the current Government.

2. Not applicable.
3. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, two reviews are on-going:

<b>Review</b>	<b>Cost to date</b>
Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies	\$857,098
Review of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)	\$1,565,659

4. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, no reviews have been stopped, paused or ceased.
5. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, one review has been concluded – the Review of Medicare Locals.
6. Since Additional Estimates in February 2014, one review has been provided to Government – the Report on the Review of Medicare Locals to Government on 4 March 2014.

7. The Government's response to the Review of Medicare Locals was announced in the 2014-15 Federal Budget.
8. No reviews are planned.