

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000633

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Primary Health Networks

Type of Question: Hansard Page 59, 1 June 2015

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

It is about increasing competition; then if there is a relationship between two PHNs, that is something that may be of some relevance to the issue of competition? If they were a couple, if they were de facto partners, would that be relevant?

Answer:

Provided that Primary Health Networks (PHNs) comply with all contractual requirements and the *Primary Health Network Grant Programme Guidelines* (the Guidelines), the department would not necessarily consider a relationship between managers of PHNs to be relevant to the issue of competition.

Section 1.6.1 of the Guidelines outlines that “Achieving value for money is a core requirement of purchasing and commissioning by PHNs. Value for money requires: encouraging competitive and non-discriminatory procurement/purchasing processes”. Related party matters are quite separate and dealt with in the Invitation to Apply and funding agreement.