

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator DI NATALE: I am putting this, Minister. I just want to go to the question of the tender. I want to establish the time line. We had the federation reform paper, which raised the prospect of the hospital benefit. As we have said, it is a bit like a Medicare benefit, an item number for patients in hospitals. Then it seems that the department engaged in a tender to recruit Global Access Partners; is that correct?

Mr Bowles: Yes.

Senator DI NATALE: When did that tender occur?

Mr Cormack: I will have to check the records for that. I do not have the document in front of me, but I can—

Senator DI NATALE: Can you give me a rough timetable?

Mr Cormack: It would have been probably towards the end of 2015, possibly early 2016, but I will need to get—

Senator DI NATALE: That is fine. I will wait for that. Who participates in that? Obviously, Mr Bowles and Mr Cormack, you are both participants. Who else?

Mr Bowles: Consumers; insurers; hospitals, both public and private.

Senator DI NATALE: Can you give us a full list of the participants?

Mr Cormack: I will need to take that on notice, because we do not actually control those particular documents. But the secretary is right: it picks up people representing private hospitals, the insurance sector, consumers, state governments, territory governments and the Commonwealth. But I do not have the records in front me.

Senator WATT: Senator Di Natale, I can help you out here. I also can table a copy of the minutes of the second meeting of this GAP task force, and that occurred on 14 September 2016. That at the very back does include a list of participants in that task force.

Answer:

The contract commenced on 11 February 2016.