

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000536

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** National Health Reform Working Group

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 39, 29 May 2017

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Senator WATT: Do you know whether, apart from having their executive director attend at least one meeting, the Australian Centre for Health Research has had any other involvement in this task force or the work that it has conducted?

Mr Cormack: I would have to check, but the work that has been undertaken has been confined largely to GAP itself. It has a small staff. The most visible part of the work to date has been at the task force meetings, and a number of people contribute to those meetings.

Senator WATT: You do not recall the Australian Centre for Health Research having prepared any papers that were presented at meetings of the task force or anything like that?

Mr Cormack: I would have to check records that may have been taken to confirm that. I do not specifically recall that. What I can say is that the process that was undertaken was meant to be inclusive of a wide range of different sectors and interests—government, non-government, insurers, consumers, medical profession et cetera. They all made contributions because they all have interests in this sort of policy proposal or policy concept. So it would not be at all unusual for a group like that to make a contribution if they were invited.

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is unable to confirm the extent of the Australian Centre for Health Research's involvement with the Taskforce and Global Access Partners as this information is not held by the Department.