

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

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OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: National Health Reform Working Group

Type of Question: Hansard Page 43, 29 May 2017

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: Do you know, Mr Cormack? Do you remember anyone else? It sounds like you were a bit more of a regular attendee. Do you know whether there was anyone else?

Mr Cormack: I would rather check the records of the meeting. I am sure there would have been a number of people who were regular attendees. But I do not feel confident to just work my way through the list and say that person was or that person was not. I would prefer to check the record for that.

Senator WATT: As I think we have talked about before, there are 21 participants listed here. Seven are from Commonwealth and state governments, three from the private health insurance industry, two from the private hospitals industry, seven from consultancies like GAP, Ernst & Young and others, and two others. Did you have any input into the list of participants who were invited?

Mr Bowles: I did not, no.

Senator WATT: Mr Cormack, did you?

Mr Cormack: Yes, certainly when the task force was being established I do recall being provided with an indicative list of names and I provided some comment on those. It was quite a broad, large list that they had had from, I presume, previous task force activities unrelated to this one.

Senator WATT: Do you remember who the additional names you suggested be invited were?

Mr Cormack: No, I cannot recall that. I will have to check the list that was given to me.

Senator WATT: I do not know; you might have sent something in an email with some suggestions?

Mr Cormack: As I said, we will take that degree of detail on record.

Senator WATT: Was there anyone whom you suggested not be included?

Mr Cormack: I may have but I will take that on notice.

Senator WATT: You have taken on notice the additional names you suggested be included and anyone you suggested not be included.

Mr Cormack: Yes, to the extent to which I have made those suggestions, I will check the records for that.

Senator WATT: Are there any groups that you suggested be included that ultimately were not?

Mr Cormack: I do not know.

Senator WATT: Can you take that on notice as well?

Mr Cormack: Yes, I can have a look at that.

Senator WATT: What the outcome of those suggestions was, I suppose, is what I am asking for.

Answer:

The Department of Health suggested the inclusion of a representative from the Commonwealth Treasury, Catholic Health Australia, the Australian Private Hospital Association and the NSW Government.

The Department suggested the removal of representatives from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Beyond Blue, East Sydney Private Hospital, and Aged and Community Services Australia.

The Department also suggested inviting one representative per organisation where two were listed.