

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May June 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000548

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Compacts

Type of Question: Hansard Page 57, 29 May 2017

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: How many times did the minister's office and the AMA meet in relation to this compact?

Mr Bowles: You would have to ask the minister's office.

Senator WATT: Unfortunately, the minister is in the other chamber.

Mr Bowles: I do not have his diary.

Senator WATT: Minister Nash, do you know?

Senator Nash: I will take it on notice for you, Senator.

Senator WATT: Yes, could you get back to us about that? How many times would you say the department has met with the AMA about this compact?

Mr Bowles: We would probably have to take that on notice. We have met with many parties many times. We will take that on notice.

Senator WATT: I accept that you will come back to me with a precise number on notice. Are we talking up to five or 10?

Mr Bowles: As to the main process with a lot of these things, we would provide advice to the minister's office which would have managed the process, but we will take on notice how many we did. We met the AMA on other issues. Sometimes we talk about everything and sometimes we talk about one specific issue.

Senator WATT: From what you just said—I cannot remember exactly how you put it—you provide advice to the minister and his office, but they are essentially take the running of it. So the meetings—

Mr Bowles: In some cases, that is the way it goes—yes.

Senator WATT: I am talking specifically about the one with the AMA. Did the department ever meet with the AMA about the compact?

Mr Stuart: That is what we have on notice.

Mr Bowles: I will take that on notice.

Senator WATT: So you are not sure whether anyone in the department ever met with them?

Mr Stuart: I am not certain at this point.

Mr Bowles: Not specifically on that issue. We do meet with them.

Senator WATT: Sure.

Mr Bowles: We would have to go back and find out whether we specifically met on this.

Answer:

The Department of Health did meet with the AMA about the compact as indicated in the response to Question on Notice SQ17-000549.