

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000600

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network

Type of Question: Hansard Page 69, 30 May 2017

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: Did the department meet with any external stakeholders regarding the decision to establish the Murrumbidgee PHN?

Mr Cormack: I do not believe so but I will take it on notice and check. I was one step removed from that process, although I had some visibility of it. I will take that on notice to confirm.

Answer:

The decision to create the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN) was made by the then Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, on the advice of the Department of Health.

The Department has no record of meeting with any stakeholders regarding this decision immediately before or after the decision was made, except as required to implement the decision.

In establishing Primary Health Networks (PHN), the Department ran an open tender process between November 2014 and January 2015. The Department met with a number of different stakeholders in conducting this process, as is standard practice. The tender process was conducted by the Department in accordance with the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines*, with independent probity advice from Clayton Utz.

As required, Minister Ley, under the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines*, immediately wrote to the Minister of Finance to notify this boundary change and to approve the grant as it fell within Minister Ley's electorate.