

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000604

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** National Maternity Services Plan

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 73 , 30 May 2017

**Senator:** Waters, Larissa

**Question:**

Mr Cormack: I am not quite sure that a conscious decision has been taken not to do that. I think it is possibly an interpretation of what is meant by an evaluation; that can mean many things to many people. But this is not something the Commonwealth is leading. We are certainly participating in it. I think the best thing we can do is check with the Queensland lead on this, and the AHMAC secretariat, to clarify the specific question that you ask. I do not recall a conscious decision to not evaluate; I suspect it is the way it has been done.

Senator WATERS: It just did not happen. Okay. Thank you for taking that on notice and following up with those other folk. I will look forward to that response.

**Answer:**

Queensland Health provided the following advice regarding evaluation of the National Maternity Service Plan.

- The COAG Health Council (CHC) requested a process evaluation of the National Maternity Service Plan (NMSP), given that the final report detailing achievements against the NMSP was to be produced. The final report regarding the NMSP is now published and available on the CHC's website found at:  
<http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Portals/0/Final%20Report%20on%20the%20National%20Maternity%20Services%20Plan%202010%20-%202015.pdf>
- The purpose of the process evaluation is to better understand the issues associated with implementing the NMSP to inform the implementation of the National Framework for Maternity Services (NFMS). The key findings from the process evaluation were included in the consultation draft of the NFMS that was made publicly available between 21 March 2017 and 18 April 2017 on the CHC's website at: <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Projects/National-Framework-for-Maternity-Services>