

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000951

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Non-medical Surgical Assistants

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

- a) The role of NMSA is not professionally recognised or governed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) via either the Board of Nursing and Midwifery Australia or the Medical Board of Australia. Has the Department given consideration to the need for additional regulation of this role?
- b) Has the Department had any discussions with the Australian surgical community, such as the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, regarding this issue? If so, what was the outcome?
- c) Has the Department had any discussions with AHPRA about this issue? If so, what was the outcome?

Answer:

- a) Non-medical surgical assistants are nurses. All nurses are registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). The NMBA sets standards, codes and guidelines which are applicable to all nurses working in all areas of nursing practice.
- b - c) The department has not held any discussions with either the Royal Australian College of Surgeons or AHPRA regarding regulation of non-medical surgical assistants.