

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-001021

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

**Topic:** Primary Care - Health Care Home Trial

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

The development of a national minimum data set for primary care was flagged last year by the Primary Health Care Advisory Group as critical infrastructure for Health Care Homes, what action has occurred? Any?

**Answer:**

The Primary Health Care Advisory Group's (PHCAG) report noted that a large body of preparatory work would be required to ready the primary health sector for a National Minimum Data Set (NMDS). The Department of Health has commenced a range of work to underpin the development of a NMDS for primary care.

The current focus of the Department's work is sourcing relevant data relating to its main programs, such as the Medicare Benefits Scheme, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule, Indigenous health services, population health and mental health services. It is envisaged that aspects of these data collections will form part of the primary health care NMDS. In addition, Health Care Home practices will be required to provide de-identified patient data for the evaluation of Health Care Homes, and some elements of this data may form part of the primary health care NMDS. The Department has commissioned various activities by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to assist in developing a primary health care NMDS.