

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-204

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: COMMISSIONED REPORTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b) How much did each report cost?
- c) How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- d) What is the current status of each report?
- e) When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

The term 'reports' is fairly broad and ambiguous. In answering this question the Department has interpreted it to refer to major policy associated reports, under the current Government. This answer excludes internal reports which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes report publications which are produced as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health and Ageing Portfolio.

Answers to questions a, b, c, d and e attached.

a) The total number of reports commissioned by the Government since Budget Estimates 2010 is two. Report details as follows:	
<b>WINDOWS INTO SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE 2010</b>	
a) Date Commissioned	10 August 2010.
a) Date report handed to government	Not applicable.
a) Date of public release	Anticipated to be publicly released early December 2010.
a) Terms of reference	The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) is required to report publicly on the state of healthcare safety and quality in Australia and part of the Commission's response to this requirement is the annual publication of a report. Annual production of the report is approved by Australian Health Ministers Conference.
a) Committee members	Not applicable.
b) Cost of report	Estimated \$27,500.
c) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	A total of eleven staff of the ACSQHC have had some involvement in the production of the report. The main work on the report chapters were carried out by EL2 (4), EL1 (2) and APS5 (2) level staff.
d) Current Status	Penultimate proof stage.
e) Date of expected Government Response	Not applicable.
<b>EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL RESPITE FOR CARERS PROGRAM (NRCP) REGIONAL DISCUSSION FORUMS AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT</b>	
a) Date Commissioned	20 October 2010.
a) Date report handed to government	Not applicable.
a) Date of public release	Not determined at this stage.
a) Terms of reference	A consultant has been engaged by the department to evaluate the National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) Regional Discussion Forums and Capacity Building Project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determine the efficiency, appropriateness and effectiveness of the project;</li> <li>• identify key themes that emerged through the forums and capacity building projects;</li> <li>• discuss the barriers that were identified by CRCCs in relation to meeting respite care needs of a policy or national program nature and suggested ways to resolve these;</li> <li>• identify projects that have increased the capacity of the NRCP and CRCC services and learnings from the projects that can be disseminated to CRCCs and NRCP service providers nationally; and</li> <li>• identify successful projects that have broader applicability or could be implemented nationally.</li> </ul>
a) Committee members	Not applicable.
b) Cost of report (\$)	Estimated \$22,500.
c) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	Two - an EL1 and APS6 staff member.
d) Current Status	The evaluation has commenced.
e) Date of expected Government Response	Not applicable.