

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-226

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: COAG HEALTH REFORMS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Budget provided \$35 million over four years to expansion of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to be moved from within the DoHA and established as an independent agency. What progress has been made and when it is anticipated that the agency will be established.

Answer:

The National Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2010 (the Bill), was introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament on 29 September 2010. The Bill provides a framework for the permanent establishment and expansion of the role and functions of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission). The Bill was debated and passed without amendment by the House of Representatives on 27 October 2010.

On 30 September 2010 the Senate Selection of Bills Committee referred the Bill to the Senate Community Affairs Committee (the Committee) for inquiry and report. The public hearing for the Inquiry is scheduled for Tuesday 9 November 2010. The anticipated reporting date for the Inquiry is 18 November 2010.

Subject to the passage of the Bill in the Spring sittings the Commission is expected to be established as an independent agency on 1 July 2011.

The 2010-11 Budget provided for the continuation and expansion of the Commission. The Commonwealth has made available additional funding of \$35.2 million over four years commencing 1 July 2011. This funding is contingent on the states and territory governments collectively matching the Commonwealth's funding contribution.

Health Ministers are expected to consider the scope of the expanded role and funding implications for the Commission at the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) meeting of 12 November 2010.