

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-229

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) So called health reform seemed to drive the previous Rudd Government, but it now appears to have taken a back seat in the Gillard Government – have the Rudd health reforms stalled?
- b) I refer to an article in the Australian Financial Review on 15 October 2010 which reports the Health Minister as saying the timing of reform could change – can you detail what timing changes are under consideration?
- c) In the same article the Minister referred to “contingency plans” for various parts of the reforms – please detail what contingency plans are being formulated by the department?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) The Minister referred to the fact that legislation is required to establish the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) and the potential for parliamentary delays.
- c) Plans are being developed to continue the implementation of agreed health reforms including Commonwealth state collaboration on the work required, in the lead up to the establishment of the IHPA, to enable activity based funding for public hospitals services from 1 July 2012.