

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-240

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: NATIONAL FUNDING AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) I refer to the dumping of the National Funding Authority – a centerpiece of the Rudd/Gillard reforms – which Kevin Rudd dumped before the ink was dry on the reform agreement saying it was unnecessary and just before he was dumped himself – does the email indicate that Victoria had put proposals to the Federal Government about how to establish the Funding Authority – and got no response – is that the case?
- b) It would appear Victoria and probably other states are working on detail of these so-called reforms because there is no detail from the Federal Government which supposedly developed the reforms, and doesn't know that a centre-piece of the “reforms” has already been dumped. Does this not indicate that the Commonwealth is not on top of what it is doing?
- c) Did the Victorian officials also point out that the Commonwealth's high level implementation plan (apparently referred to as the Gold Book) did not include any reference to “Lead Clinician Groups”?
- d) Is that because the “Lead Clinician Groups” hadn't been thought of then – that yet again this was policy on the run and that idea came later?
- e) Doesn't this leaked email show that the government and department don't know what they are doing, that from the outset this has been made up on the run and as you go?
- f) Isn't this proof that these so-called reforms are all about a political fix for the criticism the government was under for not “fixing” hospitals by mid-2009 – and that yet again this is all spin and no substance?
- g) Isn't this proof that this multi-billion dollar political fix has all the hallmarks of Labor's inability to deliver – that this could do to our hospital system what the pink batts did to hundreds of thousands of Australians homes?

Answer:

- a) No.
- b) No.
- c) Yes, however it should be noted that the high level implementation plan “A National Health and Hospitals Network – Delivering the Reforms” mentions Lead Clinician Groups on pages 11, 16, 21, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 51.

d) No.

e) No.

f) No.

g) No.