

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-238

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Activity Report - refers to answer to Question E11-390 Attachment A – Budget Estimates May/June 2011

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Activity Report - refers to answer to Question E11-390 Attachment A – Budget Estimates May/June 2011. Concerning open contract for Nous Group Pty Ltd to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Activity Report & Strategy (25/05/2011 29/07/2011 Open \$ 148,753.00)

- a) Was this contract for Indigenous engagement? If so, where?
- b) What was delivered?
- c) What prompted the contract?
- d) What specific action will be taken as a result of this investigation?

Answer:

- a) This contract was not specifically developed to consider engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in health reform, however the Nous Group did engage with the former National Indigenous Health Equity Council (now known as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Council) to inform their work.
- b) The Nous Group delivered advice related to the work of the Department of Health and Ageing's and Health Reform Transition Office's stakeholder engagement and communication activities. This advice was provided in three components:
  - Stakeholder Engagement Activity Report—detailing communication and stakeholder engagement activities within the 2010-11 financial year,
  - Stakeholder Engagement Strategy—providing recommendations related to stakeholder communication needs following First Ministers' agreement to the National Health Reform Agreement, and
  - Capability Development Plan—providing recommendations for increasing staff stakeholder engagement capabilities.

- c) At the 13 February 2011 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments, First Ministers reached agreement to pursue a significant number of changes to the original National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement, which would reshape the health and aged care system across the country.

By May 2011, a broad range of implementation activities had been undertaken related to health reform and negotiations relating to the forthcoming National Health Reform Agreement with states and territories were well underway.

This project was initiated to provide the Health Reform Transition Office with a plan for engaging the right stakeholders, in the optimal way and time.

- d) Consistent with the consultants' recommendations, the Health Reform Transition Office delivered a communication program immediately following the Prime Minister's 2 August 2011 announcement of the First Ministers' agreement to the National Health Reform Agreement.

This communication program provided detailed advice to stakeholders on the implications of the National Health Reform Agreement. Activities delivered under this program included a range of web based communication materials, a nation-wide series of stakeholder briefings and the development and distribution of the *National Health Reform: Progress and Delivery* publication.