

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19-21 October 2011

Question: E11-256

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: CONSULTANCIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In 2010/11, there was \$500,000 provided for Banscott Health Consulting for "high level strategic advice"

- a) What was this for?
- b) How long did it take?
- c) Who authorised it?
- d) What has been achieved as a result?

Answer:

- a) Mr Alan Bansemer, through Banscott Health Consulting was engaged to provide high level strategic advice to the Department to assist with policy development and implementation strategies to address a number of Government commitments including areas of national health reform, national health strategies, the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the MBS Quality Framework.
- b) Fifteen months. The contract was executed on 30 June 2010 for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. On 16 June 2011 the contract was extended for a further three months to end on 30 September 2011. This was an extension in time only and did not involve an increase to the total value of the contract.
- c) On 30 June 2010, Richard Bartlett, First Assistant Secretary Medical Benefits Division entered into the contract on behalf of the Commonwealth, in line with financial delegations under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.
- d) As outlined above, the Department has received high level strategic advice in a number of key policy areas, including the reviews of pathology and diagnostic imaging, the outcomes of which were announced as part of the 2011-12 Budget; the continued implementation of national health reform; and national health strategies.