

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-322

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON DRUG STRATEGY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) PWC conducted an efficiency review of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy and its supporting structures for the Dept of Health and Ageing. It was dated 24 January 2011. Why has this report not been publicly released? Is there something contained within the report that the Government thinks should be hidden from the public?
- b) Would you please provide a full copy of this report?
- c) What was the cost of the report?
- d) Who decided to commission the PWC report?
- e) When was the decision taken to commission the report?
- f) Which other consultants were considered to undertake the work?

Answer:

- a) The Efficiency Review of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy was a requirement of the Council of Australian Governments for all Ministerial Councils. The report has been publicly released on the Department of Health and Ageing's Disclosure Log under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.
- b) The report, minus Appendix A, can be accessed on the Department's Disclosure Log at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/foi-disc-log> - see Freedom of information (FOI) number 166-1011.

Appendix A, which contains the list of consulted stakeholders, cannot be provided as it was withheld from the FOI request under Section 47F of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* as it was contrary to the public interest and an unreasonable disclosure of personal information.

- c) The report cost \$196,338 (GST inclusive).

- d) The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy.
- e) 27 November 2009.
- f) Six organisations in total were invited to submit a Request for Quotation to conduct this review. The organisations were selected on the basis of their specific focus on evaluations at the national and state and territory levels and their experience with the health and/or law enforcement sectors.