

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-323

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: REVIEW OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON DRUG STRATEGY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Please detail who the stakeholders were who were consulted by PWC in the compilation of this report.
- b) Did the Department provide suggestions to PWC about which stakeholders should be consulted in the compilation of the report?
- c) Please provide the suggested stakeholders that were provided to PWC.
What contact did the Department have with the stakeholders that were consulted by PWC on the issue of the reform of the MCDS and its supporting structures?
- d) Please detail all meetings and communications concerning this issue.
- e) The PWC report posed 37 questions to the selected stakeholders who were interviewed. However, the report states on page 5 that “the report focused on a smaller number of key research questions which form the basis of the key findings of the evaluation”.
- f) Which are the key questions that are referred to?

Answer:

- a) The PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) report identified 49 stakeholders who were consulted from across jurisdictions, law enforcement, health, research and non-government areas. The report has been publicly released on the Department of Health and Ageing’s Disclosure Log under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

In the Report, Appendix A – List of Stakeholders was originally redacted under Section 47F – Public interest conditional exemption - Personal privacy under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Section 47F conditionally exempts a document if its disclosure would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person).

- b) Yes.
- c) Suggested stakeholders were representatives from the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (current and former), the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (current and former), the Australian National Council on Drugs, the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, drug and alcohol research centres (eg the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, the National Drug Research Institute and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction), and relevant non-government organisations (eg the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia, the Australia New Zealand Police Advisory Agency, the Australian Crime Commission, the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association and the Australian Institute of Criminology).
- d) All meetings and communications with stakeholders were handled by PWC. The Department had no contact with the stakeholders.
- e) PWC undertook all interviews and the Department has no information on this issue.
- f) The Department has no information on this issue.