

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-447

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: REVIEW OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON DRUG STRATEGY

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) PricewaterhouseCoopers conducted an efficiency review of the MCDS and its reporting structures for the department in a report dated 24 January 2011. Why hasn't this report been released publicly?
- b) Could you tell me why appendix A, the list of stakeholders has been redacted?
- c) Could you tell me who the consulted stakeholders were and whether they were consulted on the basis of suggestions made by PricewaterhouseCoopers or by the Department directing PricewaterhouseCoopers as to who should be consulted?
- d) Could you also tell me whether those stakeholders, the various industries, were consulted and again whether that was at the suggestion of PricewaterhouseCoopers or of the Department?

Answer:

- a) The report has been publicly released on the Department of Health and Ageing's Disclosure Log under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.
- b) Appendix A 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).
- c) The consulted stakeholders were primarily government officers responsible for business under the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy and also included representatives of research organisations working in the field.

PricewaterhouseCoopers suggested a number of committees and organisations they proposed to consult in their Request for Quote to the Department. The Department of Health and Ageing provided PricewaterhouseCoopers with the contact details of stakeholders to be consulted within the categories proposed by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

- d) The stakeholders consulted were contacted by PricewaterhouseCoopers and agreed to participate in the review.

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