

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000788

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Medical Research Future Fund

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

- a) When will appointments be made to the MRFF Advisory Board?
- b) When is it expected applications will first be invited to apply for MRFF funding?
- c) When is it expected the first disbursement from the MRFF will be made?
- d) How many departmental staff are assigned to the development and administration of the MRFF?
- e) How will members of the MRFF Advisory Board be remunerated?

**Answer:**

- a) The timing for appointments to the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board is a decision for Government.
- b) The *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015* sets out robust reporting and governance arrangements which means any disbursement from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) must give consideration to the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy and Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities to be developed by the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board. The appointment of the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board is a decision for Government.
- c) See above.
- d) The development and administration of the MRFF will require significant cross-portfolio and inter-departmental linkages. As the MRFF's interaction across a range of policy areas is only likely to spread in time, a meaningful estimate of staffing is not practical.
- e) Provision for the remuneration of the Advisory Board is covered in the *Medical Research Future Fund Act 2015*.