

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000978

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Health Networks

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 50, 21 October 2015

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

Senator McLUCAS: So all 31 have put those arrangements in place?

Mr Cormack: As far as we are aware they have, or are in the process of finalising those. I wrote to them not so long ago, just to clarify a couple of points of expectation from the Commonwealth's point of view, and most of them have responded positively to that.

Senator McLUCAS: Could we find out those who have not?

Mr Cormack: We will take that on notice.

Senator McLUCAS: Would you expect that each of the PHNs would publish the names of the clinical advisory committees and the consumer committees on their websites?

Mr Cormack: I am not quite sure whether our contract specifies that. We think that is probably good practice as a matter of principle, but there may also be some privacy issues in relation to some of the community members that some of the PHNs are engaged with. But we think that would be good practice.

Senator McLUCAS: What would be the conflict there, Mr Cormack?

Mr Cormack: In small communities or isolated communities where particular people may be nominated to be on a community advisory committee there may just be some desires by individuals. I am not aware of any, I am just speculating here because I am not entirely sure whether all PHNs are in the process of putting their community advisory committee or other membership up on their website, but I am just saying there may be circumstances where that is not appropriate.

**Answer:**

As at 21 October 2015, all 31 Primary Health Networks have reported progress in establishing their Clinical Councils and Community Advisory Committees that is in compliance with their obligations under their standard funding agreements.