

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000981

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Primary Health Networks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: Let me ask the question another way. There will be requests from the Department of Health to vary a contract because you want to do something more?

Mr Bowles: Could be.

Senator McLUCAS: That is what you have just said, Mr Bowles. I understand that. The other way of looking at it is that there will be requests from a PHN to the department to vary a contract because of their requirements. How many of those circumstances do we have?

Mr Cormack: We will take that on notice. There is just too much detail for us to—

Senator McLUCAS: There are only 31 of them.

Mr Cormack: It goes back to the earlier conversation. There are a lot of these contracts in place. There are normal activities of reporting and disclosure, and requests from either party going to the other party, and any of those can lead at any point in time to a normal, business-as-usual variation or adjustment to a contract. We are happy to take it on notice and provide you with more detailed information. We simply do not have the information available to us to say how many contracts are currently subject to variation or likely to be subject to variation, because the answer we give you today is almost certainly going to be different to the answer we give you tomorrow.

Answer:

As at 21 October 2015, three Primary Health Networks have requested a variation to their standard funding agreement.