

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000375

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Expression of Interest

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Senator POLLEY: How many responses were there in response to the expression of interest back in 2014? Would you have that information?

Mr Bowles: I could take that on notice. There were more than eight, but I think for the ones that met the criteria—there was a round eight, from memory. But there were a lot more than that who originally put in an EOI from my recollection. I can take that on notice as to the specific number.

Senator POLLEY: That would be appreciated. Did Telstra respond to the expression of interest?

Mr Bowles: Not to my recollection. Again, I can take that on notice.

Answer:

Forty-eight responses were received in response to the Expression of Interest (EOI) for payment of health services by commercial payment service providers issued by the Department of Health in August 2014.

Clause 1.4 of the EOI provided that the organisational details for each respondent would be regarded as commercial in confidence while they are being considered. Although that process has concluded it would be inappropriate to reveal the organisations that responded ahead of a further approach to market to replace the IT system expected in early 2017.