

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

COAG reform Council

Question: PM1

Topic: Analysis of emergency department performance

Asked By: Senator Ryan

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 2

A Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet contract (CN 362888) for 'management advisory services' relating to the analysis of emergency department performance from the University of Wollongong See

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.viewandCNUUID=EE9F4E65-CB78-3B89-E0584F7AD8BD703A>

- 1. Which department is being reviewed for its performance?**
- 2. Which individual is leading the review of emergency department performance?**
- 3. Will the report be released publicly? When will it be released?**
- 4. What are the terms of reference?**

Answer:

- 1. This contract relates to the COAG Reform Council's (CRC) role in reporting to COAG on the *National Healthcare Agreement: Performance report for 2009–10*. As part of that role the council is required to include examples of good practice in its comparative reporting. The CRC has commissioned the Centre for Health Services Development to examine the performance of emergency departments across states and territories. The aim of the research is to identify if one jurisdiction has lower waiting times for emergency department care than the**

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others. If so, the CRC will consider an additional research task that will examine what underlying good practice might explain this apparently good performance.

2. The research is being conducted by the Centre for Health Service Development at the University of Wollongong, led by Professor Kathy Eagar.
3. The CRC generally releases its reports approximately one month after they are submitted to COAG. The research is being done in conjunction with the council's second performance under the *National Healthcare Agreement: Performance report for 2009–10* which is due to be submitted to COAG at the end of April 2011.
4. There are no formal terms of reference. The Request for Tender established that the research would involve: in-depth analysis of performance information in selected areas of each National Agreement, to better understand variations in performance across and/or within the Commonwealth, states and territories. The areas for analysis will initially be selected from the Council's comparative analysis of performance information as published in National Agreement reports. Analysis of performance will then be undertaken with regard to contextual differences such as rates of socio-economic disadvantage, Indigenous status, and remoteness, as well as other factors—if any—that are likely to affect state and territory performance.