

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
27-28 May 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 1/1.1
Topic: Breakdown of Health program measure

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F25

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 112, 27 May 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: ... Moving to the rationalising and streamlining health program measure—page 110 of Budget Paper No. 2—can you provide a breakdown of the \$968.2 million into the six dot points that are listed in the measure description?

Senator Cormann: The measure description is what the measure description is. If you want a more detailed breakdown I would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator LUDWIG: I am always pleased when I am in the right area. Then for the smaller government in the Health portfolio on page 111—so the next page of Budget Paper No. 2—I would like a breakdown of the \$113.1 million into the seven dot points that are outlined in that measure as well.

Senator Cormann: You would like the breakdown?

Senator LUDWIG: Yes.

Senator Cormann: We can take that on notice.

Answer:

Rationalising and streamlining Health programmes

A breakdown of the measure ‘Rationalising and Streamlining Health Programmes’ across the six dot points listed in the measure descriptions follows:

- the Health Portfolio Flexible Funds (\$596.2 million over four years from 2015-16);
- dental workforce programmes (\$96.4 million over four years from 2015-16);
- preventative health research (\$13.5 million over five years from 2014-15);
- GP Super Clinics which have not yet commenced construction (\$16.8 million over three years from 2014-15);

- ceasing the *Inborn Error of Metabolism* programme (\$11.7 million over four years from 2014-15); and
- piloting competitive tendering for a subset of products in the Stoma Appliance Scheme (\$19.0 million over three years from 2016-17).

Additional savings of \$209.1 million over five years will be achieved from efficiencies across a range of other Health programmes.

Smaller Government – Health Portfolio

A breakdown of the measure ‘Smaller Government – Health Portfolio’ across the seven dot points listed in the measure descriptions follows:

- creating operational efficiencies in the delivery of corporate services by amalgamating the corporate and legal services of the Therapeutic Goods Administration into the corporate functions of the Department (\$16.2 million over four years from 2015-16);
- ceasing activities in the Department that mirror the work of specialist agencies (\$28.1 million over four years from 2015-16);
- ceasing the National Lead Clinicians Group from 1 July 2015 (\$17.1 million over five years from 2014-15);
- rationalising the structure of the Department to more effectively respond to the Government's health policy priorities (\$4.1 million over four years from 2015-16);
- rationalising business and financial management support functions across the Department (\$22.1 million over four years from 2015-16);
- reducing contractor costs by recruiting ongoing staff to replace IT contractors (\$26.1 million over four years from 2015-16); and
- reducing the Department's property footprint and consolidating staff into current locations (\$9.3 million over four years from 2015-16).