

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Office of National Assessments

Senate Estimates Hearings, May 2008



PM 113a(FIFIELD) – Office of National Assessments

What recent work has been undertaken to assess Australia’s ability to cope with an incident that produces mass casualties, such as a catastrophic terrorist attack?

ONA response: N/A

PM 113b(FIFIELD) – Office of National Assessments

How is public health infrastructure placed to cope with such an event?

ONA response: N/A

PM 113c(FIFIELD) – Office of National Assessments

With at least around 500,000 more people expected to crowd into the public health system as a result of the Government’s decision to lift the Medicare surcharge threshold (according to Treasury figures), does the Office of National Assessments consider that this additional pressure will adversely impact on our ability to cope in the event of a catastrophic event?

ONA response: N/A

ONA comment:

The matters raised in questions 113a, 113b and 113c fall outside the mandate of the Office of National Assessments (ONA). In accordance with the *Office of National Assessments Act 1997* ONA does not provide assessments on domestic issues or the capacity of Australian institutions to cope with catastrophic events within Australia.