

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM51

Topic: Health Reform - Contact with WA

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

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Senator ABETZ-I have an interest in this area. The actual agreement between the states and the Commonwealth has not been finalised by way of a legally binding agreement.

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Senator ABETZ-So the answer is yes. Thank you. When was the last contact with Western Australia over this issue?

Mr Rimmer-Senator, I think we would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

There have been ongoing discussions with Western Australia since the COAG meeting of 20 April 2010.

Western Australia has been invited to participate in the COAG Health Reform Implementation Group which has been established to oversee Commonwealth/State engagement on the implementation of the National Health and Hospitals Network.

The Government is committed to continuing discussions with Western Australia until such time agreement is reached.