

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: COAG – NAHA

Senator: Senator Payne

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Question:

Senator PAYNE: So the revised NAHA said the first quarter of 2013. Was that period extended?

Ms Cross: No, I am just saying they may have submitted it as part of one of the plans. We will check that for you. I certainly do not recall having seen it, but it could have been in just one of their standard reports.

Senator PAYNE: If it has not been provided can you tell us on notice when it is expected to be provided and why it has been delayed. In paragraph 19 of the NAHA there is also a reference to four provisional performance benchmarks under the agreement. It says that those will be subject to review following the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations review of funding adequacy this year. What is the status of the review of funding adequacy? Has that taken place?

Ms Cross: I believe that was a Treasury led review, so you would need to check with Treasury on what the status of that is at the moment.

Senator PAYNE: Would you know if it had come to—

Ms Cross: I do not think it was due until the end of 2013.

Senator PAYNE: That is fine. I just wanted to check on the timing. If you could perhaps let us know on notice when we can expect to see that.

Answer: The report from the Select Council on Housing and Homelessness under the NAHA was submitted on 12 April 2013.

The Standing Council on Federal Financial Review has agreed that the review of funding adequacy will commence in 2013. Terms of reference for the review are currently being developed.