

National Primary Healthcare Partnership response to questions on notice from Senator Fierravanti-Wells following presentation at a public Senate Finance and Administration Committee hearing inquiring into COAG reforms relating to health and hospitals

Q. Where do you receive your funding from?

Response: The NPHCP is primarily member funded by annual subscription. It has attracted minimal sponsorship funds that are not associated with its policy directions.

Q. What is the structure of your organisation?

Response: The NPHCP is a unique collaboration of twenty peak health organisations. Policy and strategic decisions are determined by the full partnership. A steering committee comprised of seven partnership members supports the operation of the NPHCP and advises the full partnership on achievement of strategic goals. Members of the steering committee, which include the NPHCP Chair, are elected from the membership. The NPHCP is supported by limited secretariat services paid for out of the income noted above. The partnership has no legal status.

Q. Do you receive any Commonwealth funding? If so, how much?

Response: The NPHCP does not currently, and has not previously, received funding from the Commonwealth Government.

Q. What level of consultation on the National Health and Hospital Network have you had with the Department of Health and Ageing? Over what timeframe has the consultation taken place?

Response: The NPHCP has had no direct consultation with the Department of Health and Ageing regarding the National Health and Hospital Network. The majority of NPHCP members have been engaged at some level and in their own right with the Department regarding recent primary health care reform consultations and announcements. Information is shared within the partnership. The NPHCP has provided written submissions to the Minister for Health and Ageing and a number of Commonwealth appointed health commissions and taskforces, regarding health reform over the last 18 months.

Q. What level of consultation on the role of Medicare Locals have you had with the Australian General Practice Network? Over what timeframe has the consultation taken place?

Response: The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) is a member of the NPHCP. As other NPHCP members do on issues of shared interest, AGPN shares with the NPHCP its policy directions and activities relating to primary health care and the activities of general practice networks.

The NPHCP, in response to the emerging health reform agenda, developed a consensus policy position on regional primary health care organisations in 2009.

AGPN has briefed the NPHCP on its activities to support the General Practice Network in preparing to evolve into primary health care organisations. It is anticipated that the Partnership will be an ongoing forum for engagement as the directions for establishing PHCOs become clearer.