

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-096

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to questions asked at the Estimates hearing on 23 February 2011, can you explain:

- a) The process behind how this new agreement came about?
- b) What was DoHA's role in the preparation of the new health proposal?
- c) At what time/date was the decision made to overhaul the first National Health and Hospitals Plan?
- d) What was wrong with the first National Health and Hospitals Network?
- e) Why did it need to be scrapped?

Answer:

a – e)

The detail of the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement was the subject of ongoing discussions between the Commonwealth and states during late 2010 and early 2011. The features of the new agreement took shape during the course of these conversations. The Department of Health and Ageing, along with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and the Department of Finance and Deregulation, prepared the Heads of Agreement on National Health Reform and supported the negotiations that led to states' agreement. All states and territories (including Western Australia) have signed the Heads of Agreement.