

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-172

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: HEALTH AND HOSPITALS FUND (HHF)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Does the Minister or the Minister's office have any input into the funding decisions under the HHF round three?
- b) Does the Minister or Minister's office have the power to override decisions of the independent assessment of HHF spending or any input to change the independent decisions?

Answer:

a and b)

Section 252 of the *Nation-building Funds Act 2008* (the Act) specifies that the Minister can only recommend authorisation of payments for applications that the independent HHF Advisory Board advises as satisfying the HHF evaluation criteria and any additional guidance. The Government decides which applications to fund from those assessed by the HHF Advisory Board as meeting the funding requirements, consistent with Section 252 of the Act. The Minister or her office do not have the power to override the independent assessment of the HHF Advisory Board.