

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-181

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: BETTER ACCESS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Who was on the panel which awarded the tenders to carry out the evaluation of the Better Access Program?

Answer:

In accordance with the Request for Tender for the evaluation of the Better Access initiative, the tenders received for Components A to D were assessed by a Tender Evaluation Committee (TEC). The TEC consisted of five members drawn from mental health, primary care, Medicare, data analysis and program evaluation areas of the Department of Health and Ageing. The TEC was also supported by a technical adviser on mental health information and evaluation and an independent probity adviser.

In accordance with the Request for Quote for the summative evaluation of the Better Access initiative, the quotations received were assessed by a TEC. The TEC consisted of four members drawn from mental health, Medicare, data analysis and program evaluation areas of the Department. The TEC was also supported by a technical adviser on mental health information and evaluation and an independent probity adviser.

The procurement process for the evaluation of the Better Access initiative was conducted in accordance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines 2008. In accordance with the Chief Executive Officer Delegations, appropriate delegate approval of the TEC's recommendations was gained.