

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-237

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: COMPARISON OF NHHN AGREEMENT AND HEADS OF AGREEMENT ON HEALTH REFORM

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Ms Halton, perhaps the easiest way of dealing with this is for one of your officers to please do a comparison of the heads of agreement mark 1 and mark 2, so that we can actually see which clauses survive and which do not survive, and how a clause in the first agreement is now effective as part of another clause in the heads of agreement. There are clear differences, and it is not very clear from some of the more general statements that are made in the heads of agreement as to what survives. There are also other agreements that are affected, such as the improving public hospital services agreements. Could you also make reference to those?

Answer:

As the Heads of Agreement is a high level document setting out a changed policy intent, and includes a commitment to negotiate a new agreement, an exact comparison of the 2010 National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement (NHHNA) and the Heads of Agreement reached at COAG on 13 February 2011 is not practicable.

While it is not possible to give a precise answer, in general the following clauses of the NHHNA have been varied or superseded by the new arrangements in the Heads of Agreement: Agreement - 2, 4, 9-11, 14, 16-17, 20, 22; Schedule A - 8-9, 21, 29-32, 34; Schedule B - 1, 3-11, 29, 34, 36-37; Schedule C - 1, 3, 5, 10-13, 15, 20-21; Schedule E - 11, 13, 21; and Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

Similarly the following clauses of the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services have been modified or superseded: Agreement 4, 7, 9, 21, 33, Schedule A - 2, 5, 17, Table A1, Table A3; Schedule C - 6, 14, 30 Table C1, Table C2 and Table C3. The following clauses have been added: Agreement 27, 39-47, 51, 52-55 and Table 1.