

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-238

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: NATIONAL FUNDING AUTHORITY

Hansard Page: CA 19

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

I am interested to understand the reasoning that went on behind dumping the national funding authority.

- a) Why was it dumped in the first place?
- b) It was clearly necessary because it has come back in another life. What was the process that you went through to reason the dumping of it?
- c) Did you go back and reread what you had previously written, and realise it was really quite important?
- d) What were the processes that led to the reintroduction of this new version of national funding?
- e) Did you realise you had made a mistake?

Answer:

a– e)

Under the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement there were to be joint funding bodies in each state and territory. Hence the government took the view that a National Funding Body was not also required. Under the Heads of Agreement on National Health Reform there will no longer be joint funding bodies in each state and territory, rather there will be a single National Funding Body.