

QoN No.	Agency/ Outcome	Senator	Broad Topic	QUESTION	Hansard/ Ref
1	1	Siewert	GM Labelling Laws	The WA Government has an obligation under Australia's Food Standards to test for compliance with GM labelling laws. In September 2010, Greenpeace sought under the Western Australian Freedom of Information Act (1992) details of all tests conducted by the WA Government on food and food products to determine whether they contained novel DNA or proteins, between 2005 and the present. Greenpeace recently received correspondence from the WA Department of Health advising that "...the Department has not conducted or participated in, and does not hold any documents relating to, received any tests of the nature described in your application." a) Is the Government aware that WA is not meeting its obligations under Australia's food standards? b) If so, has it raised the issue with WA? c) What actions is the Federal Government taking to address this failure? d) Does it mean that the Australian Government can not guarantee that foods are GM free? e) How can Australian consumers have confidences in that there foods are safe if WA is not meeting its obligations? f) Are other states meeting their obligations?	Written QoN
2	3	Siewert	Diagnostic Imaging	a) Is the Department aware that, according to a study done for the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association by Access Economics, the bulk billing rebate was on average 21% below the cost of providing a service in 2010-11 and this is projected to increase to 25% in 2011-12? b) Is the Department aware that practices which rely on bulk billing are being forced to cut their costs, often by restricting the role of radiologists in their practices and reducing the number of cost-inefficient but necessary services which they offer? c) Is the Department aware that of the 30% of diagnostic imaging Medicare rebateable services referred by specialists, few are bulk billed and that this means that the very sick patients, who need these services most - and who often have to have regular scans - will be unable to take advantage of bulk billing?	Written QoN
3	3	Siewert	Medicare Reimbursed Diagnostic Imaging	Can the Department identify the percentage of Medicare reimbursed diagnostic imaging services which are bulk billed for: a) Mammography? b) Obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound? c) General ultrasound examinations? d) Angiography? e) Diagnostic imaging studies involving the use of contrast media to detect abnormalities?	Written QoN
4	3	Siewert	Diagnostic Imaging	What is the average gap fee patients pay for diagnostic imaging services?	Written QoN
5	3	Siewert	Diagnostic Imaging	How many bulk billed services have to be repeated?	Written QoN
6	3	Siewert	Diagnostic Imaging	I note the Department is conducting a review of the funding of diagnostic imaging. a) When will that report be completed? b) Will it be made public? c) What is the timeframe for its recommendations to be implemented?	Written QoN
7	13	Siewert	Lead Clinician Groups Discussion Paper	I note the short timeframes for consultations relating to the health reforms: four weeks for the responses to the Lead Clinician Groups Discussion Paper, just over two weeks for the Discussion Paper on Medicare Locals Governance and Functions. a) With these short timeframes, have stakeholders been able to provide considered responses? b) What input, if any, has public consultation on the health reform processes had on the final decisions that have been made?	Written QoN
8	2	Siewert	Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)	The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee now releases its agendas publicly prior to its meetings. a) Has this had any impact on public submissions to PBAC? b) If not, have any efforts been made to engage with relevant stakeholder groups about the items on the PBAC agenda?	Written QoN
9	1	Siewert	AUST R and AUST L	a) Does the TGA consider that there is a good understanding among the general public of the difference between AUST R and AUST L products? b) If not, what is the TGA doing to educate the public about the difference between these products?	Written QoN
10	2	Siewert	Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement	The Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement will include a new Patient Service Charter, to be in place by 1 July 2011. a) Will there be public consultation on this Patient Service Charter? b) If yes, when will this consultation commence?	Written QoN
11	10	Siewert	eHealth	How are consumers being engaged in the design and delivery of the PCEHR system?	Written QoN
12	12	Siewert	Health Workforce Australia	Is Health Workforce Australia considering the needs of the health workforce beyond clinical areas, for example Aboriginal health workers, and the public and preventive health workforce?	Written QoN
13	2	Siewert	Ondasetron on the PBS	a) Why is PBS access to Ondasetron restricted to the nausea experienced during chemotherapy for malignancy? b) Is the Department aware that Ondasetron is prescribed for other severe conditions?	Written QoN
14	6	Siewert	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme	The Senate Committee report titled 'Highway to health: better access for rural, regional and remote patients' was released late 2007. a) What is the status of the recommendations? b) With respect to Recommendation 2[7.110] 'that as a matter of urgency, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council establish a taskforce comprised of government, consumer and practitioner representatives to develop a set of standards for patient assisted travel schemes that ensure equity of access to medical services for people living in rural, regional and remote Australia'. What action has been taken to establish a taskforce by the Australian Health Ministers' Council to develop standards for patient travel schemes to ensure equitable access?	Written QoN

15	3	Siewert	MSAC	<p>In a press release at the foundation of MSAC in 1998 the Minister claimed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Australia first in world to adopt evidence based medicine' - 'The introduction of evidence based medicine and the committee means that the gap between research knowledge and clinical practice will narrow, and patients will benefit earlier from the most advanced procedures drawing on the best scientific and medical evidence.' - 'MSAC will make definitive and clear judgements on medical procedures based on scientific and clinical grounds.' <p>a) Does the Government still stand by these public commitments? b) If not, what are MSAC's goals now? c) Does the Government believe its Health Technology Assessment process is meeting the needs of Australian patients?</p>	Written QoN
16	3	Siewert	MSAC	<p>Is the Government aware of a recent submission to MSAC from the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia where it is state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'PET has a critical and irreplaceable role in the investigation and management of several cancers, including upper gastrointestinal and head and neck cancers. PET scans have been shown to restage 25% of cancer patients, ensuring that areas of cancer not detected by other imaging modalities are identified and treated.' - 'PET scans are unfunded for many cancer patients, regardless of the fact that determination of the optimal management pathway relies on PET results.' <p>a) Does the Government agree that its approach to Health Technology Assessment is not meeting the needs of cancer patients? b) If so, are there any plans to improve on this situation?</p>	Written QoN
17	3	Siewert	MSAC	<p>MSAC first began assessing PET in 1999, and approved the subsequent research protocols for the PET data collection program it recommended. The Senate has been told on several occasions that the data collection would address questions that were unanswered about PET at the time of the original reviews in 199 and 2000.</p> <p>a) Can the Government explain why PET scanning has received so much attention for MSAC yet is still unfunded for many cancer patients, regardless of the fact that determination of optimal management pathway relies on the PET result? b) Can the Government explain why a process that was scheduled to take three years took so long to complete? c) Can the Government detail the cost of the PET data collection process?</p>	Written QoN
18	3	Siewert	MSAC	<p>a) Can the Government explain why MSAC approved research protocols for the PET data collection process failed to answer important questions about PET's effectiveness and cost effectiveness? (For example, in response to Question: E09-094 it has been revealed that MSAC could not determine the cost effectiveness of PET in colo-rectal cancer restaging and was unclear if PET resulted in overall health benefits) b) How often has MSAC failed to implement procedures that allow 'definitive and clear judgements on medical procedures based on scientific and clinical grounds'? c) Is it true that after the PET data collection process MSAC claimed it did not have an accurate cost of PET scans to use in its economic modelling? d) Why didn't MSAC design a prospective assessment of cost effectiveness as part of the PET data collection project?</p>	Written QoN
19	3	Siewert	PET Scanners	<p>a) Is the Government aware of a recent letter from Royal North Shore Hospital Sydney stating that the Minister received a report from MSAC more than 14 months ago that recommended expansion of MBS funding for lymphoma to allow access at more hospitals with PET scanners, and that patients were being disadvantaged by the delay? b) With respect to the Royal North Shore Hospital PET scanner: how much funding did the Government provide for the scanner? c) Is the Government aware that the PET scanner is operating well below full capacity? d) Would the Government agree that delays in putting additional PET Items for diseases such as Lymphoma is causing inefficient use of Commonwealth funds as well as disadvantaging cancer patients? e) Does the Government know if other PET scanners it has funded are being used or will be used with greater efficiency?</p>	Written QoN
20	3	Siewert	PET Scanners	<p>There seems to be a disconnect between the funding for PET scans and the needs of cancer patients. Would the Department agree that a review of the approach to health technology assessment that recognises the need to review evidence in light of the potential benefits to patients, health services and the broader health system would be an important step in maximising access for cancer patients to vital imaging technologies?</p>	Written QoN
21	3	Siewert	PET Scanners	<p>I understand that the total Federal Budget for diagnostic imaging is about \$2 billion, with the expenditure on PET scans at about \$20 million. As I understand it, MSAC's figures indicate a high probability that much of the PET expenditure is saved because other tests and treatments are shown to be necessary.</p> <p>a) Would the Department agree with this assumption? b) If so, wouldn't the Department agree that restricting expenditure on PET costs lives, causes hardships to our most vulnerable citizens and wastes money?</p>	Written QoN

22	7	Siewert	Hearing Services	<p>a) What information does the Department gather to ascertain effectiveness for clients of hearing services provided?</p> <p>b) Does the Department have time-series data to show whether modifications to the program have resulted in significant improvement for clients in the quality of hearing aid outcomes? (Note - HSP modifications have included contract terms, improvement in device technology, training of dispensers, Rehab Plus - extra payment for extra group hearing rehabilitation).</p> <p>c) What proportion of hearing services clients assess they have received high quality, satisfactory or poor quality hearing outcomes from the services provided?</p> <p>d) Do these proportions vary between providers?</p> <p>e) What information is available to potential clients about effectiveness of hearing services providers to help them choose where they go to obtain hearing services?</p> <p>f) Is there any impediment to releasing performance data for individual clinics?</p> <p>g) Does Government funding discriminate between service providers with poor quality outcomes, and those with high quality outcomes?</p> <p>h) What steps is the Department taking to lift the overall performance of hearing services received by clients of the program?</p> <p>i) Is the Department aware of any publicly available systems capable of driving Continuous Quality Improvement in hearing care delivery?</p>	Written QoN
23	1	Xenophon	Blewett Review	<p>a) What has FSANZ done with the 61 recommendations in the Blewett Review?</p> <p>b) Recommendation 42 talks about a framework being developed around Country of Origin labelling based primarily on the ingoing weight of the ingredients and components. Is it your understanding that 'components' would include the product packaging?</p> <p>c) Does it not seem bizarre that under the current regulations - and the recommendation made in the Blewett Review - that Country of Origin labelling should include packaging, considering this is not what the consumer is technically buying?</p>	Written QoN
24	1	Xenophon	Country of Origin	<p>a) The Country of Origin is required to be labelled for fresh fish under the Code, but not when it comes to cooked fish. Is FSANZ looking at amending this?</p> <p>b) Does it not follow that, just like a fishmonger might try to sell fresh Vietnamese Basa as Barramundi, for example, a restaurant might try to do the same in its fish and chips?</p> <p>c) Should diners not be afforded the right to know?</p>	Written QoN
25	1	Xenophon	S-26 Baby Formula	<p>Since the last Estimates, I understand FSANZ has conducted its own tests of the S-26 baby formula. However despite one of the two laboratories finding all six samples to contain traces of GM, you have considered the results to be 'false positives'.</p> <p>a) On what basis have you made this decision?</p> <p>b) Do you still not consider that parents have a right to know whether the formula their feeding their infant contains GM ingredients - no matter what the level?</p>	Written QoN
26	1	Xenophon	Reprocessing and Remanufacturing	<p>a) How does the TGA differentiate between 'reprocessing' and 'remanufacturing'?</p> <p>b) What is the TGA's position on each?</p>	Written QoN
27	1	Xenophon	Catheters	<p>It is our understanding that a remanufacturer must go through 'conformity assessment' in order to supply remanufactured catheters in Australia. I understand that 'conformity assessment' requires the provision of a 'design dossier' of all 'remanufactured' devices.</p> <p>a) Can you explain how a remanufacturer can have access to design details that presumably could only be supplied by the original manufacturer?</p> <p>b) If not, how can a remanufacturer provide the same level of design detail without access to the original manufacturer's design dossier?</p> <p>c) Do remanufacturers only need to provide a lower level of information?</p> <p>d) Presumably there will be multiple remanufacturing cycles for an individual catheter. What additional testing will be required by the remanufacturer to identify, for example, material fatigue or degradation which could put a patient at risk of injury or even death, especially when a catheter may be inside someone's heart for an extended period of several hours?</p>	Written QoN
28	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) Prior to the Government's announcement of 29 April 2010, did the Department conduct any consultations with small retailers about the impact of plain packaging for tobacco products on their business?</p> <p>b) Who did the Department consult with and when?</p> <p>c) What advice did the Department receive from small retailers about the impact of plain packaging on their businesses?</p>	Written QoN
29	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) Prior to the Government announcement of 29 April 2010, did the Department prepare a Regulatory Impact Study (RIS) and when, who did the Department consult with, what impacts did the Study identify for small retailers, and what advice did the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) provide in relation to the RIS?</p> <p>b) Did the Department consult with retailers on the RIS about the potential job losses, impact on employment (including part-time and casual staff), channel shift?</p>	Written QoN
30	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) What evidence does the Department have that plain packaging will reduce smoking rates? Please provide that evidence.</p> <p>b) Who provided this evidence and is this publicly available?</p> <p>c) If the advice was external, who was the consultant?</p> <p>d) How much were the consultants paid?</p> <p>e) What other evidence has been provided?</p> <p>f) What is the estimated reduction of smoking rates specifically by the plain packaging measure?</p>	Written QoN

31	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) Can the Department rule out the possibility that plain packaging might increase dangerous illicit or counterfeit tobacco consumption and the risk it poses to consumers of tobacco products? (12 percent of tobacco is currently being illegally purchased and counterfeited, according to PriceWaterhouse Coopers, 2009)</p> <p>b) What studies have been conducted, by whom and can you please make that report available?</p> <p>c) What risks does illicit tobacco pose to minors who are trying to access illicit or counterfeited cigarettes?</p> <p>d) What studies have been conducted, by whom and can you please make that report available?</p>	Written QoN
32	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) Which departments or agencies and other stakeholders has the Department consulted regarding illicit and counterfeit products and its availability to young people and consumers in general?</p> <p>b) Can the Department outline the agencies or stakeholders it has consulted regarding this?</p> <p>c) Can it outline what advice it has received from these agencies or stakeholders?</p>	Written QoN
33	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging - Impact on Stock Management	<p>a) Does the Department have any analysis on the regulatory impact on small retailers, such as independent newsagents, milk bar owners, independent service stations and specialist tobacconists on stock management, including but not limited to lost revenue, lost sales to Coles and Woolworths and increased regulatory burdens.</p> <p>b) Your Department has carriage of these proposed laws. Can you quantify or estimate the cost to small retailers in lost time for stock management which is made more difficult by plain packaging?</p> <p>c) If not, why not?</p> <p>d) If the Department has not done this analysis, why not and when does the Department expect to do this analysis?</p> <p>e) What does the Department estimate, including time per day and indicative costs per annum for unloading, restocking and stocktaking for small retailers and for large retailers (Coles and Woolworths)?</p> <p>f) Is the Department aware that unloading, restocking and stocktaking can be daily or weekly tasks for smaller retailers?</p> <p>g) Deloitte's estimated the increase in daily time for stock management may be up to 45 minutes a day and an indicative cost of up to \$5,500 per annum. Does the Department have any comparable figures?</p> <p>h) If the Department has not done this analysis, why not and when does the Department expect to do this analysis?</p>	Written QoN
34	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging - Impact on Transaction Costs	<p>a) What is the financial impact in dollar terms of the sales transaction costs on retailers as a result of plain packaging for small retailers?</p> <p>b) What about for large retailers?</p> <p>c) If the Department has not done this analysis, why not and when does the Department expect to do this analysis?</p>	Written QoN
35	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging - Stock Selection Errors	<p>a) Small retailers predict plain packaging will increase stock shrinkage due to error selection. When consumers leave stores with the incorrect packages, they open packages and later exchange the products, this leads to a second transaction. Has the Government considered the impact on smaller retailers for stock selection errors and stock shrinkage?</p> <p>b) What is the financial impact of this cost on small retailers?</p> <p>c) What is it for large retailers?</p> <p>d) If the Department has not done this analysis, why not and when does the Department expect to do this analysis?</p> <p>e) Can the Department rule out any financial cost to small retailers arising from incorrect stock selection through the introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products?</p>	Written QoN
36	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging - Store Security	<p>Retailers have expressed concerns over the increased potential for store theft while they are distracted searching for tobacco products (that all look the same) requested by customers. Does the Department propose to assist retailers with the extra cost of installing security cameras and other security measures to reduce risk to theft as a result of plain packaging?</p>	Written QoN
37	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) As part of the Government's preventative health strategies, does the Department rule out plain packaging approaches for other consumables that are identified as posing public health risks?</p> <p>b) Does the Department rule out plain packaging and graphic health warnings for energy drinks?</p> <p>c) Does the Department rule out plain packaging and graphic health warnings for wine?</p> <p>d) Does the Department rule out plain packaging and health warnings for beer and cider?</p> <p>e) Does the Department rule out plain packaging and health warnings for spirits, including alcopops?</p> <p>f) Does the Department rule out plain packaging and health warnings for snack food that the Preventative Health Taskforce considers as drivers of increasing rates of obesity and diabetes?</p> <p>g) Does the Department rule out plain packaging and health warnings for fast foods that the Preventative Health Taskforce considers as drivers of increasing rates of obesity and diabetes?</p>	Written QoN
38	1	Bernardi	Plain Packaging	<p>a) Has the Department provided any advice or briefings to the Minister for Health and Ageing on graphic health warning and plain packaging for the following: alcohol, food products, energy drinks?</p> <p>b) If plain packaging is deemed by your Department to be necessary for tobacco products then why is it not necessary for alcohol and fast food products give the relative health risks they pose?</p> <p>c) What discussions have you had with other industries regarding graphic health warning and plain packaging?</p> <p>d) What work has been done by the Department on further regulatory measures that will impact on these industries including manufacturers and retailers?</p>	Written QoN

39	5	Colbeck	General Practitioners in Tasmania	<p>a) Can the Department provide the latest figures available for numbers of General Practitioners working in Tasmania cross-referenced to Divisions of General Practice?</p> <p>b) Can the Department provide the numbers of GPs, cross-referenced by division, who have discontinued work in Tasmania since July 1, 2010?</p> <p>c) Can the Department provide the numbers of GPs, cross-referenced by division, who have commenced work in Tasmania since July 1, 2010?</p>	Written QoN
40	11	Colbeck	Sisters of Charity	<p>a) What discussions and correspondence has occurred between the Department and Sisters of Charity since 5 November 2010 when the Department responded to a letter?</p> <p>b) What existing Commonwealth Mental Health programs may be options for a continued funding stream for Sisters of Charity?</p> <p>c) What provision does the Department deem will be necessary for the Devonport community in terms of new mental health services should Sisters of Charity discontinue its service when the current funding period end in August 2011?</p> <p>d) Can the Department provide statistics for mental illness and suicide rates in Tasmania, broken down to localities or regions where possible?</p> <p>e) At what state are the negotiations between the Commonwealth and the Tasmania Government for a further funding contract for operation?</p> <p>f) Will these negotiations be finalised before June 30, 2011</p> <p>g) Will the outcome of these negotiations be known before June 30, 2011?</p>	Written QoN
41	5	Colbeck	Burnie (Cooee) GP Super Clinic	<p>a) When will the Burnie (Cooee) GP Super Clinic open for client consultations?</p> <p>b) The Department has previously stated six GPs will work at the Cooee clinic. The clinic operator has informed the community through the local newspaper that four GPs will work at the clinic. Can the Department confirm the number of GPs that will be working at the clinic when it opens?</p> <p>c) What has delayed the opening of the Cooee clinic?</p>	Written QoN
42	5	Colbeck	Devonport GP Super Clinic	<p>a) The Department has previously cited the 'encouragement' of linkages between GP super clinics and other local health services. What linkages have been established between the Devonport GP super clinic and other local health services, and how are these different to the linkages that any GP clinic can establish with local health services?</p> <p>b) Is the Devonport GP Super Clinic meeting the performance measures?</p> <p>c) If not, in what areas?</p> <p>d) Who is responsible for ensuring the Devonport Super Clinic meets its performance measures?</p> <p>e) How is the assessment carried out and how frequently will the Devonport Super Clinic be assess during the 20 year contractual arrangement?</p> <p>f) How many GPs work at the Devonport Super Clinic?</p> <p>g) How many new GPs have commenced at the Devonport Super Clinic since July 2010?</p>	Written QoN
43	10	Colbeck	North West Regional Hospital	<p>a) Have negotiations yet reached an agreement for the funding over financial years of the cancer centre to be built at the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie Tasmania?</p> <p>b) When will the assessment for the Tasmanian Government's \$20.65 million application for radiation oncology services for the North West Area Health Service be completed and the outcome announced?</p>	Written QoN
44	13	Colbeck	Mersey Community Hospital	<p>What progress can be detailed since Supplementary Estimates with regard to negotiations between the Commonwealth and the Tasmanian Government for future funding and operation of the Mersey Community Hospital?</p>	Written QoN
45	0	Ryan	Health of Small Business Owners	<p>a) What programs does the Department of Health have in place that address the health of small business owners?</p> <p>b) What statistics does the Department of Health collect about the health of small business owners?</p> <p>c) Is the Department aware of any general problems relating to the health of small business people, if so what are they?</p> <p>d) Does the Department of Health conduct any visits to ascertain the health of small business people?</p>	Written QoN
46	8	Scullion	Aboriginal Medical Services	<p>a) How does the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) monitor capital works needs of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services?</p> <p>b) Has OATSIH supported all the capital works needs identified in the process of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services seeking accreditation?</p> <p>c) As a member of the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP) panel, how is OATSIH contributing to the assessment of applications from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services?</p> <p>d) How does OATSIH know what the capital works needs of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services are?</p> <p>e) What is OATSIH's estimate of the costs needed to address the capital works needs of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services over the next four to five years? If OATSIH is unable to estimate this, please outline why not?</p>	Written QoN
47	8	Scullion	Aboriginal Medical Services	<p>a) In the most recent round of funding from the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program, could you please outline the amounts allocated to the six successful Aboriginal Medical Services and what the funds will be used for?</p> <p>b) How many Aboriginal Medical Services across Australia have applied for funding through the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program to address non-compliance issues identified under the Building Code of Australia and the Disability Discrimination Act, and been unsuccessful?</p> <p>c) Given the serious nature of non-compliance issues in relation to building standards and their impact on vital operations, will the Government take any action to ensure these Aboriginal Medical Services are operating in premises that meet legal standards?</p>	Written QoN

48	2	Siewert	PBS Supplies to Remote Aboriginal Health Services	<p>a) Has any data been made available in the public domain by Medicare on PBS supplies to remote Aboriginal health services through the Section 100 arrangements in the ten years the program has been in operation? If not, why not?</p> <p>b) If yes, has it been detailed enough to allow for medicine supply to be compared on a regional, state/territory and national basis between Aboriginal health services and with mainstream?</p> <p>c) Are there any funds available to allow Aboriginal health services to employ a pharmacist apart from the s100 Support Allowance paid to the supplying retail pharmacy doing the supply? If not, why not?</p>	Written QoN
49	8	Siewert	Closing the Gap Report	<p>In relation to the hospitalisation rates (page 27) the report states that a breakdown of hospitalisation rates for children will not be provided, as has been reported in previous NTER monitoring reports.</p> <p>a) Is this information no longer being collected? Or just not reported?</p> <p>b) Can you explain why this information is no longer available?</p> <p>c) Can you provide data on the number of children submitted to hospital for malnutrition between Jan - June 2010?</p> <p>d) Is there data on hospitalisation for nutritional anaemia during this period?</p>	Written QoN
50	3	Cash	Reciprocal Health Care Agreements	<p>I am advised that until 1998 410 retirement visa holders (holders of visa subclass 410) who were from countries which had reciprocal health care agreements with Australia were eligible for reciprocal Medicare benefits. However, in 1998 the Department of Health asked the Attorney-General for a determination as to the residency status of 410 visa holders and their eligibility for reciprocal Medicare benefits.</p> <p>I am further advised that the Attorney-General determined that 410 visa holders are deemed to be no longer resident in their countries of origin, and therefore visa holders who are citizens of countries which have a reciprocal health care agreement with Australia are no longer eligible for reciprocal Medicare benefits.</p> <p>a) What were the circumstances of the case referred by the Department of Health which led the Attorney-General to make the determination disallowing eligibility?</p> <p>b) Did the circumstances relate to one specific case only?</p> <p>c) What was the full text of the 1998 determination received by the Department from the Attorney-General?</p> <p>d) Has the Department made any request since 1998 for any similar determination from Attorney-General for any other class of temporary visa?</p> <p>e) Are 457 (Business - Long Stay) visa holders eligible for reciprocal Medicare benefits?</p> <p>f) Are 457 (Business - Long Stay) visa holders deemed by the Attorney-General to be still resident in their countries of origin?</p> <p>g) Are parent visa applicants, whether on bridging visas or on 410 visas, eligible for reciprocal Medicare benefits?</p> <p>h) Are parent visa applicants, whether on bridging visas or on 410 visas, deemed by the Attorney-general to be still resident in their countries of origin?</p> <p>i) Are any other temporary visa holders, other than 410 visa holders, considered to be no longer resident in their home countries? If so, which visa holders are so classified?</p> <p>j) Has any similar determination been made by the Attorney-General, or any request for any similar determination made to the Attorney-General, for any other class of temporary visa since 1998?</p>	Written QoN
51	1	Ryan	Plain Packaging	<p>a) Prior to the Government's announcement of 29 April 2010, did the Department conduct any consultations with small retailers about the impact of plain packaging for tobacco products on their business?</p> <p>b) Who did the Department consult with and when?</p> <p>c) What advice did the Department receive?</p> <p>d) Was the Department consulted before the announcement of the 29 April concerning plain packaging of tobacco products? If so, when? If not, why not?</p> <p>e) Was the Minister consulted before the announcement of the 29 April concerning plain packaging of tobacco products? If so, when? If not, why not?</p>	Written QoN
52	1	Ryan	Plain Packaging	Can the Department rule out the possibility that plain packaging might increase dangerous illicit or counterfeit tobacco consumption and the risk it poses to consumers of tobacco products?	Written QoN
53	1	Ryan	Plain Packaging	<p>a) What impact will this have on small businesses who sell legal tobacco products?</p> <p>b) If plain packaging of cigarettes is introduced, what will be the financial cost to small business in Australia due to an increase in illicit and counterfeit products being sold in the market?</p> <p>c) Can the Department outline the agencies it has consulted regarding this matter? Customs and Border Protection Service? Australian Crimes Commission?</p> <p>d) Can you outline what advice has been received from those department/s and agencies?</p>	Written QoN

54	1	Ryan	Plain Packaging - Impact on Stock Management	<p>a) Has the Department conducted a Regulatory Impact Statement on the impact on plain packaging on retailers? Small Retailers? Large Retailers?</p> <p>b) Has the Department provided any input into a Regulatory Impact Statement on plain packaging for tobacco products and what impact this will have on retailers? If not, why not?</p> <p>c) Have you calculated the financial cost to small business regarding stock management?</p> <p>d) If not, what are your plans for consulting small businesses?</p>	Written QoN
55	1	Ryan	Plain Packaging - Impact on Transaction Costs	<p>a) Have you calculated the financial cost to small business regarding sales transactions?</p> <p>b) If not, what are your plans for consulting small businesses?</p>	Written QoN
56	1	Ryan	Plain Packaging - Stock Selection Errors	<p>When consumers leave stores with the incorrect packages, open packages and later exchange the products, this leads to a second transaction.</p> <p>a) Have you calculated the financial cost to small business regarding stock selection errors and stock shrinkage?</p> <p>b) If not, what are your plans for consulting small businesses?</p>	Written QoN
57	1	Boyce	Improving Consistency of Data Collections	<p>In the latest annual report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, on page 43 there is a reference to the, 'increasing differences between the state and territory collections and the national collection', and it goes on to say that there is, 'no consensus on which concepts were most important' from the stakeholders.</p> <p>Given that this has been an issue for a decade, give that it is a problem that has allegedly been worked on for ten years.</p> <p>a) Could the Institute please detail what progress has been made in the last ten years?</p> <p>b) Has, in fact, the situation regarding the consistency of data across jurisdictions gotten worse?</p> <p>c) What difficulties does this create for the creation of sound public policy decisions?</p> <p>d) As an example can you describe how the inconsistency of data collections and methods affect the quantifying of the degree of national 'unmet need' in disability services?</p>	Written QoN
58	1	Boyce	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)	<p>Could the Department provide details of all current programs and projects that deal with non-Indigenous Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder that include costings, timelines, locations and goals?</p>	Written QoN
59	2	Boyce	Australian Pharmaceutical Industries	<p>The Australian Pharmaceutical Industries claims that while 'the industry shares in some \$950 million over five years to distribute medicines under the Community Service Obligation (CSO) arrangement, this is some \$225 less than what the Government is removing from the industry with its current PBS reforms'. Is this correct and if not, could you explain in detail why not?</p>	Written QoN
60	2	Boyce	PBS Reforms	<p>a) Why does the Department hold the view that a 1.7% growth rate compensates the wholesalers for further enacted PBS reforms and the inflationary costs of doing business?</p> <p>b) And if the Department got that estimate wrong what are the implications for the pharmaceutical wholesaling sector?</p>	Written QoN
61	2	Boyce	PBS Reforms	<p>a) When PBS Reforms were introduced in August 2008, wholesalers were broadly compensated for the collateral damage caused by reducing drug prices by way of an adjustment to the CSO. Is it true that further PBS reform price adjustments have been processed over the past two years without any additional compensation for the wholesalers?</p> <p>b) If that is correct could the Department explain in detail why additional compensation for wholesalers has not been forthcoming?</p> <p>c) If the claim made in E10-060 is incorrect, could you provide a detailed answer as to why that is the case?</p>	Written QoN
62	2	Boyce	PBS Reforms	<p>a) What is your response to industry claims that as pharmaceutical wholesaling is a high volume, low margin business with profit around 2% of turnover that the impact of the current PBS reforms is making the whole industry unviable?</p> <p>b) As far as the Department is concerned have any unintended consequences of the PBS Reforms been observed?</p>	Written QoN
63	2	Boyce	Australian Pharmaceutical Industries	<p>a) API's has called on the Government and DoHA to supplement the CSO pool in order of \$30 million per annum. Is this being considered?</p> <p>b) Would it in the Department's view solve the problem API is raising?</p>	Written QoN
64	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	<p>How much money has NEHTA spent, including discovery, legal fees and administration costs dealing with the issue of the DIAD patent?</p>	Written QoN
65	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	<p>a) NEHTA claimed that a former employee, Peter West, had stolen their intellectual property. What has been the outcome and result of that claim?</p> <p>b) Why was this action taken?</p>	Written QoN
66	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	<p>a) There is in existence a document that outlines a plan to eliminate 'Argus Connect', a supplier of medical messaging software from the Northern Territory market. Is it true that the chief executive of NEHTA, Peter Fleming, initially denied its existence?</p> <p>b) Is it true that when shown the document he then claimed it wasn't a NEHTA document?</p> <p>c) What proof can you provide to support his claim?</p> <p>d) If the document is indeed a NEHTA document would its contents be sufficient to warrant an investigation by the ACCC?</p>	Written QoN
67	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	<p>a) Did NEHTA ever present to DoHA or the Minister an identifier or summary health record system based on the putatively stolen property?</p> <p>b) How much did they spend on computer forensics, lawyers, the time of senior staff etc in the attempt to take control of the IP of the patent?</p> <p>c) Did NETHA ever intend to make use of the IP of the patents?</p>	Written QoN

68	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	Given that a tender has just been issued by NEHTA for, inter alia, the design of the National Authentication Service for Health (NASH) after years of fruitless effort in-house, how far away is the implementation of electronic summary health records?	Written QoN
69	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	a) Despite the definition of stakeholder by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) '...a person or group concerned with, affected by, or perceiving themselves to be affected by an organisation.' Why does NEHTA not regard consumers as stakeholders, why is that? b) Why has NEHTA done this? c) Does it mean that in line with its performance in regard to consumers that they don't have a high priority in NEHTA's agenda thus far?	Written QoN
70	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	In its mission statement, NEHTA talks of 'working openly, constructively and collaboratively with consumers'. So why does the vast bulk of NEHTA's work focus on stakeholders rather than consumers?	Written QoN
71	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	I was also wondering how NEHTA sees openly and collaboratively when its executive refuse to appear before the public estimates hearings and uses its incorporated status to avoid answering most questions put to it especially questions that seek information about NEHTA's spending of tax payers nee consumers money?	Written QoN
72	10	Boyce	National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	a) Is it true that a delegation of senior NEHTA staff recently flew the United States to study consumer engagement? b) How much did that cost? c) Surely we have enough culturally appropriate expertise on consumer engagement right here? d) In terms of these priorities I mentioned earlier, why has NEHTA waited five years to even investigate consumer engagement?	Written QoN
73	10	Boyce	eHealth	Can the Department provide the evidence that supports the approach being adopted with the PCEHR as opposed to other approaches to eHealth?	Written QoN
74	10	Boyce	eHealth	Now that the PCEHR is approved and being implemented why is it that the public cannot review the business and benefits cases that you claim have been developed and approved by Health Ministers?	Written QoN
75	10	Boyce	Health Identifier Service	When is it certain that the public will see demonstrable improvements in the quality and safety of their health care as a result of the introduction of the Health Identifier Service and what will be the quantum of those improvements?	Written QoN
76	10	Boyce	eHealth	When will the public see the details of just what the PCEHR is and how it will improve the quality of their care?	Written QoN
77	1	Boyce	Unmet Need	a) The Department looked at the issue unmet need in 1995, 1997 and 2001. As far as I can see, AIHW has not done any work on defining or on assessment tools for unmet need since; is that correct? b) Could you provide me with all work AIHW has done since 2001 on the topic of what unmet need is and provide me with your most up to date definition of what unmet need is?	Written QoN
78	1	Boyce	Secondary Use Data	In evidence before the Community Affairs Committee Estimates Mr Kalisch in discussing described much of the data that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has to work with in the areas of disability, homelessness, drug and alcohol as, and I quote: 'I think it really goes to the very nature that the data that we get is essentially secondary use data, in that the purpose of the collection is not often to provide data for policy purposes.' This must be a major impediment to the formulation of sound public policy what plans are in hand to fix this and how and when can we expect it to happen?	Written QoN
79	10	Boyce	Palliative Care Research Activities	What is the difference between whether we manage the research program or the research review program for palliative care research activities?	CA 58 - 23/2
80	1	Fierravanti-Wells	Australian National Preventive Health Agency	Regarding the contract for \$32,520.92, for advertising the chief executive officer position for the Agency. That is a lot of money to put an ad in that number of papers (5). Can you give me a breakdown of the cost of that?	CA 114-115 - 23/2
81	1	Fierravanti-Wells	Australian National Preventive Health Agency	Regarding Agency sponsorship of the FCA Melbourne Chinese New Years Festival 2011. a) How did this come about and how much money was spent by the Agency for the sponsorship of the festival? b) Was the Agency contacted directly, and if so, by whom? c) Did it go searching for sponsorship?	CA 116-117 - 23/2
82	1	Fierravanti-Wells	Preventive Health Agency	Follow-up to E10-138. Referred to three background papers (commissioned by the Department in 2008) that were provided to the Taskforce. These papers were marked 'strictly confidential; for the use of the Taskforce only'. a) If you do not want to release the whole paper, perhaps you could give me a precis of them and who produced them? b) I would be interested to know how much you did pay for that?	CA 117 - 23/2
83	7	Adams	Hearing Services - Research Funding for Otitis Media	In relation to the conference report from the inaugural Australian otitis media group. a) Are there any research dollars looking at otitis media and the problem it concerns? b) Could you go through the programs that are applicable to that particular thing?	CA 69-70 - 25/2
84	4	Adams	Community Care Quality Review Process	How many staff are employed to undertake this function?	CA 52 - 23/2
85	4	Adams	Community Care Quality Review Process	Why would the accreditation agency not be able to carry out those duties? They already have training. They are training your employees. It seems almost duplication.	CA 53 - 23/2

86	3	Fierravanti-Wells	National Prescribing Service	a) In relation to the National Prescribing Service could you outline how much they have been spending on meetings, venue hires and hospitality? b) They seem to be undertaking a series of meetings and workshops. What are they actually achieving in relation to that?	CA 71 - 23/2
87	3	Adams	Collection Centres	There is to be, apparently, a disallowance motion in the Senate next week on the topic of pathology collection centres. a) The first question is: has the number of collection centres increased by 46 per cent since July and why? b) Have there been productivity improvements in recent times? c) Has this been documented and by how much? d) If the change to the system was undertaken on the grounds that the old arrangement was contrary to National Competition Policy, what other parts of the health sector were affected? e) Were pathology collection centres the only anticompetitive arrangements subject to licensing regulation in health? f) Are there others and, if so, which ones? g) Do you agree that the change was not driven by, nor has it resulted in, any improvement in patient care?	CA 94 - 23/2
88	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Austender	CN348148: to fitout the NT State Office. Was this related to the fit-out for Minister Snowdon's office? If so, was it at the instigation of the Department or at the instigation of Minister Snowdon? Provide details of this contract.	CA 8 - 23/2
89	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Austender	CN344180: Provision of IT services and the establishment of a ministerial office. Provide details of this contract.	CA 9 - 23/2
90	1	Ludlam	National Radioactive Waste Management Bill - Regulation	There is serious dispute over tenure that you are no doubt aware of already that is in the Federal Court at the moment. The Government is moving ahead to pass legislation anyway. I am not aware how you will apply your process when the actual ownership of the land is yet to be determined. Will you be forced to wait until that question has been?	CA 110 - 23/2
91	1	Boyce	Release of Regulatory Control of MOATA Reactor Facility at ANSTO	I have a few follow-up questions, primarily from your quarterly report. You were looking at a request from ANSTO to release from regulatory control the MOATA reactor facility. What remaining issues need to be satisfied before a formal request to surrender the licence can be made?	CA 110 - 23/2
92	10	Moore	The Jeannie Ferris 2010 National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers Consumer Churchill Fellowship	Details for Merran Williams, recipient of the Jeannie Ferris NCGC Churchill Fellowship. On notice, Dr Zorbas, could we actually get some information. I am sure members of the committee would like to send their wishes, because it is the inaugural winner, and we would like to do that for all the winners, but it would be a nice link with our committee.	CA 56 - 23/2
93	1	Heffernan	Packet Barramundi	Could you take me through the journey that the carton of fish has been through because of all the identifications on it, to let me know what tests for chemicals and antibiotics were done?	CA 98 - 23/2
94	1	Heffernan	Imported Prawns with White Spot Disease	a) What tests were done on these prawns for human health as well as animal health, which they failed and yet they made it through the system? b) Would you be able to provide, if you had gone to AQIS, the bit of paper that says, 'We tested these on such and such a date and we got a tick'?	CA 99 - 23/2
95	10	Fierravanti-Wells	Regional Cancer Centres	The Incoming Government Brief talks about the successful regional cancer centres. 'Projects were announced in May 2010, of which 15 require implementation plans with jurisdictions.' Can you take on notice to give me a list of those or a link where I can find them?	CA 66 - 23/2
96	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	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?	Written QoN
97	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	Further to questions asked at Estimates on 23 February 2011, can you advise: a) If the Prime Minister or another Minister or another department decided to overhaul the first National Health and Hospitals Network, when was DoHA first made aware that a new agreement was being considered? b) Who advised the Department that a new agreement was being considered?	Written QoN
98	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Health and Hospitals Network	If the Health Minister or DoHA decided to overhaul the first National Health and Hospital Network, please advise: a) When the Health Minister or DoHA first made other Ministers and their Department aware that a new agreement was being considered? If the decision to overhaul the first National Health and Hospitals Network was not made by the Health Minister or DoHA, please advise: b) When the Health Minister or DoHA were first made aware that a new health proposal was being considered? c) When was DoHA first asked to provide advice?	Written QoN
99	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	Were proper Cabinet process followed, including: a) Were lodgement deadlines adhered to (the Cabinet Handbook requires that there should be sufficient time for consultation - at least a few days) or was it a last minute decision to bring forward this new health deal? b) When did the matter go to Cabinet? c) Did Minister Roxon bring this matter to Cabinet or was it a joint submission?	Written QoN

100	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>a) What role did the Health Minister or DoHA have in relation to costing of the new health proposal?</p> <p>b) Please provide details of what costings advice, feedback or changes were received or made by the Health Minister or DoHA in relation to the health proposal.</p> <p>If the Health Minister or DoHA sought costings advice in relation to the health proposal, please advise:</p> <p>c) The nature of the advice sought?</p> <p>d) When was the information sought?</p> <p>e) Of whom the advice was sought?</p> <p>f) When the advice was provided?</p>	Written QoN
101	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>If the Health Minister or DoHA did not seek costings advice, please advise:</p> <p>a) When any advice in relations to costings was provided to the Health Minister or DoHA?</p> <p>b) Whether the Health Minister or DoHA provided any feedback or made any changes to those costings? If so, please provide details.</p> <p>c) The nature of the feedback provided or changes made?</p> <p>d) When was the information sought?</p> <p>e) Of whom the advice was sought?</p> <p>f) When the advice was provided?</p> <p>g) How long were you given to cost the new agreement?</p> <p>h) Was there agreement on the costs?</p>	Written QoN
102	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>Labor's new health proposal only relates to 'growth', not existing hospital costs: The Commonwealth will fund up to 45% of the growth in hospital costs in 2014-15 and up to 50% in 2017-18. This is estimated to cost \$16.4 billion. All of the promised increase in Commonwealth funding is beyond the forward estimates. Accordingly, please advise:</p> <p>a) Where is the money coming from?</p> <p>b) How was the figure of \$16.4 billion arrived at?</p> <p>c) What assumptions have been used?</p> <p>d) Can you provide a copy of all of your costing documents, including supporting documents?</p> <p>e) How accurate are costings for items beyond the forward estimates?</p> <p>f) What assurance can be given as to the accuracy of the health costings?</p> <p>g) What guarantees do the taxpayers of Australia have that the costings will not change?</p> <p>h) In relation to the estimated cost of \$16.4 billion, how will it be funded?</p>	Written QoN
103	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>Given that the government can commit to the spending now, please provide a list of offsetting savings? If no, please advise if the proposal will be funded from general revenue.</p>	Written QoN
104	0	Fierravanti-Wells	New Health Proposal	<p>What was the Health Minister and DoHA's role in the new health proposal?</p>	Written QoN
105	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Funding Pool	<p>Has the Health minister and/or DoHA analysed the differences between the two entities - the National Funding Authority (dumped in June 2010) and the new National Funding Pool?</p>	Written QoN
106	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>Since 21 August 2011, please outline the role that Health Minister and DoHA have had in relation to the COAG Health proposal announced on 13 February 2011?</p>	Written QoN
107	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>Previous evidence at Estimates and in answers to questions on notice outline the meetings that were had between DoHA and other Commonwealth and state and territory officials in the lead up to the COAG agreement of 19 and 20 April 2010. Please provide details of all meetings undertaken by PM&C and other Commonwealth and state and territories officials including:</p> <p>a) The date of each meeting?</p> <p>b) The place of each meeting?</p> <p>c) The attendees of each meeting?</p>	Written QoN
108	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Funding Authority	<p>Why was the National Funding Authority dumped?</p>	Written QoN
109	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Funding Pool	<p>What are the parameters of the National Funding Pool?</p>	Written QoN
110	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Funding Pool	<p>a) Who was responsible for the decision to introduce the national funding pool?</p> <p>In relation to this, please specify:</p> <p>b) Was this at the suggestion of the Health Minister or Department?</p> <p>c) When was the decision made?</p> <p>d) If the decision was made by the Health Minister or Department, when were other Ministers and their departments advised?</p> <p>e) Which Ministers and Departments were advised?</p> <p>f) When were they advised?</p>	Written QoN

111	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Funding Pool	<p>a) What is the difference between the dumped National Funding Authority and the National Funding Pool? Please outline the parameters of each including as to:</p> <p>b) Management structures.</p> <p>c) Responsibilities.</p> <p>d) Accountability.</p> <p>e) Funding.</p> <p>f) Reporting framework.</p> <p>g) Commonwealth legislative requirements for their establishment of each body.</p> <p>h) State and territory legislative requirements for their establishment of each body.</p> <p>i) Commonwealth and state and territory 'accounts'.</p>	Written QoN
112	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>a) Was the Health Minister or DoHA responsible for the drafting of the Heads of Agreement - National Health Reform?</p> <p>b) If so, was the document drafted in the Health Minister's office?</p> <p>c) If not, which Minister or Department was responsible?</p>	Written QoN
113	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Expenditure Working Group	What role does DoHA have in relation to the Health Expenditure Working Group?	Written QoN
114	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>Almost \$12.7 million was spent on promoting the former health plan. TV commercials claimed Mr Rudd's 'health reform' was 'delivering the most significant improvement to our health system since the introduction of Medicare'. Yet the Prime Minister said that no deal had been reached.</p> <p>a) Can you explain why taxpayer's money was used in an advertising campaign that the Prime Minister said was incorrect?</p> <p>b) Is this good use of taxpayer's money?</p>	Written QoN
115	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>a) Will an advertising campaign be undertaken in relation to the proposal announced on 13 February 2011?</p> <p>b) What steps will be taken to ensure that any future advertising campaign of the new health deal will be factually correct?</p> <p>c) How did this factually incorrect advertising campaign come about?</p> <p>d) Who is responsible for the factually incorrect advertising campaign (of the health deal)?</p> <p>e) Please explain how advertising campaigns are approved. Who bears ultimate responsibility?</p> <p>f) Will the approval for advertising campaigns be changed? Please explain.</p> <p>g) What other government advertising campaigns are factually incorrect? If they say there are none: how can the Department be certain that there is none?</p>	Written QoN
116	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>Can you provide a list of all publications on health reform from November 2007 to August 2010 including:</p> <p>a) The number of copies of each publication?</p> <p>b) The cost of each publication?</p> <p>c) Where the money came from for each publication?</p> <p>d) For each publication, what portion of its contents remain valid post the health reform proposals announced by the Prime Minister on 13 February 2011?</p>	Written QoN
117	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Health Reform	What role did DoHA have in the drafting of the Heads of Agreement - National Health Reform?	Written QoN
118	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	Further to the indication given at the Estimates hearing, can the Department provide comparison of Health Reform Mark I and Health Reform Mark II?	Written QoN
119	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	<p>a) How many people within the Minister's Office and the Department were working on the Rudd Health Reform Mark I reforms that have now been dumped? Please advise:</p> <p>b) When did they stop?</p> <p>c) Did all those people switch to Health Reform Mark II?</p> <p>d) How many staff hours were spent on Health Reform Mark I and Health Reform Mark II?</p> <p>e) What was the cost in wages and staff expenses, including any overtime payments or time off in lieu?</p> <p>f) How many meetings were held with consultants and stakeholders?</p>	Written QoN
120	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	How many meetings were held with health officials from states and territories in relation to Health Reform Mark I and Health Reform Mark II? Please provide details of all meetings, including venue, times, attendees and costs.	Written QoN
121	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	How much was spent on publicising the Health Reform Mark I reforms now dumped - television/radio/print advertising?	Written QoN
122	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	What has been the total cost of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission since its establishment? Please provide a yearly breakdown, including costs incurred in consultation, draft and its final report, A Healthier Future for all Australians, the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Final Report.	Written QoN

123	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	How much was spent on preparing and publishing the various Health Reform Mark I 'books' including: a) A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future (blue book)? b) A National Health and Hospitals Network: Further Investments in Australia's health (green book)? c) A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future Delivering Better Health and Better Hospitals (red book)? d) A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future - Budget May 2010? e) A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future Delivering the Reforms (yellow book)?	Written QoN
124	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform Taskforce	Health had a 'Reform Taskforce'. In relation to this taskforce, please advise: a) What is it doing now? b) How many DoHA personnel were on that? c) Who are they? d) Are they still involved?	Written QoN
125	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Reform	In the Heads of Agreement signed on 13 February 2011 there is reference to an Expert Panel to be appointed by COAG and to issue its first report prior to 30 June 2011. The Expert Panel will comprise a chair, an expert clinician and a former senior health administrator, according to the Heads of Agreement. In relation to this Expert Panel, please advise: a) How will these panel members be selected? b) Will they be hand-picked by the Prime Minister or the Health Minister? c) When will the Expert Panel be chosen? d) When will the public be informed? e) Is Dr Stephen Duckett being considered for one of the roles?	Written QoN
126	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Sub-Acute Beds	Mr Rudd announced 1316 sub-acute beds under the New Beds Guarantee Partnership in April 2010 (Health Reform Mark I) over four areas - palliative, mental health, rehabilitation and geriatric. How many beds does each state get and what is the breakdown per state?	Written QoN
127	1	Fierravanti-Wells	Australian National Council on Drugs	a) What is the current membership of the Australian National Council on Drugs? b) Are the members those who were recommended in a minute to the Minister provided in February 2010? c) When do the current terms of the members expire?	Written QoN
128	1	Fierravanti-Wells	Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages	In relation to the FSANZ - Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages with the Pregnancy Health Advisory Label, please advise: a) When was Application A576 received by FSANZ? b) When was the initial assessment released? c) Has FSANZ completed its draft assessment? d) If so, when will it be released? e) If so, has the draft assessment been delayed until after the completion of the Review into Food Labelling Law and Policy (the Blewett Review)? f) If not, how much work needs to be done on the draft assessment? g) Is there anything from the Blewett Review that will affect the A576 Application Review?	Written QoN
129	2	Fierravanti-Wells	5th Guild Government Pharmacy Agreement	a) During negotiations for the 5th Guild - Government Pharmacy Agreement was the Department aware of possible changes in Pfizer's distribution arrangements with pharmaceutical wholesalers? b) If so, what did the Department do to manage any real or perceived conflicts of interest that the Guild, which negotiated on behalf of wholesalers, may have had? c) Were these procedures followed? d) What are the requirements for timely delivery for companies supplying under the PBS? e) Are there any requirements on the cost of delivery for drugs supplied under the PBS? f) What are the consequences for non-compliance? g) Does the Department have any information on the timeliness and cost of delivery under the new Pfizer direct delivery system?	Written QoN
130	2	Fierravanti-Wells	Erbix	a) What measures are being put in place to ensure that Australians patients with metastatic colorectal cancer have access to treatments considered globally to be the standard of care? b) Has the government considered the advice from the PBAC meeting in July 2010 recommending the PBS listing of Erbitux for the treatment of K-ras wild type metastatic colorectal cancer? c) Has the government received advice from MSAC regarding the listing of K-ras testing as an MBS item? d) With respect to the listing of Erbitux for the treatment of K-ras wild type metastatic colorectal cancer on the PBS, will the government meet its commitment for Cabinet consideration within six months of reaching price agreement as specified in the 2010 MoU with Medicines Australia?	Written QoN
131	3	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Rebates	a) How many patients across Australia have been denied Medicare rebates because the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency has not renewed medical practitioner registrations by due dates? b) How many practised illegally? c) How many patients cannot claim private health insurance for those consultations? d) What is going to be done to work out all these issues? e) What impact has there been on hospitals? f) How many hospitals turned away nurses and graduate nurses taking up their first jobs because they were not registered?	Written QoN

132	3	Fierravanti-Wells	Tony Webber - PSR	a) The term of Tony Webber, the Director of the Professional Services Review, expires on 13 May 2011 and the guidelines must inform from six months before that whether he will be reappointed. Has this occurred? b) If he has not been reappointed what is the reason?	Written QoN
133	3	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Provider Number	The 2010 Review of the Medicare Provider Number Legislations contains a number of recommendations. Recommendation 6.2 on page 5 requires co-ordination between the Divisions of General Practice and the Medical Deputising Services. This has not occurred but is this what the new Medicare Locals are meant to do?	Written QoN
134	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Aged Care Quality Standards	Where is the review of the aged care quality standards at, when is the report due and what consultation process is proposed with the industry?	Written QoN
135	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Complaints Investigation Scheme	a) Why does the discussion paper on proposed changes to the Complaints Investigation Scheme (CIS) ignore the compulsory reporting process, especially the 24-hour requirement for specific incidents? b) Will this be reviewed through another process? c) What external quality assurance process is the Department of Health and Ageing subject to? d) If there is none, are there plans to introduce such a system? If not, why not?	Written QoN
136	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Aged Care Providers	a) Who will own the data from the benchmarking facility for aged care providers? b) What does the Department intend to do with this material? c) What consultation, if any, has taken place with the industry in framing the Request for Tender document for the external consultant to develop the benchmarking facility? d) What consultation will occur during the tender process and post tender selection? e) Will participation be voluntary? f) Will the service only contain financial data or is it intended to host other benchmarking data as well?	Written QoN
137	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Provider Benchmarking	a) Will provider participation in the benchmarking process remove the requirement for providers to produce General Purpose Financial Reports? If no why not? b) To what use are the GPFRs currently being put? c) When will the industry see the next round of analysis of the GPFRs? d) For what purpose can the current reporting format provided by DoHA be used? e) Does the Department know how many times providers have been asked for the GPFR?	Written QoN
138	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme	Can the Department provide a breakdown of complaints received by the Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme?	Written QoN
139	10	Fierravanti-Wells	Local Palliative Care Grants Program	a) How many applications were received for the Local Palliative Care Grants Program announced by Minister Butler on 3 December 2010? b) Can the Department provide a list of successful applications?	Written QoN
140	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Aged Care Workforce	a) What accredited courses are being funded by the Supporting a Professional Aged Care Workforce program, announced by Minister Butler on 20 November 2010? b) Which registered training organisations, aged care providers and industry groups were successful in applying for funds?	Written QoN
141	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Dementia Community Support Grants	Can the Department list the successful applicants for the fourth round of the Dementia Community Support Grants program, announced by Minister Butler on 9 December 2010?	Written QoN
142	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Which locations have state or territory governments tendered for GP Super Clinics as a partnership?	Written QoN
143	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Is the Department favourably approving international medical graduates (IMGs) to practice in GP Super Clinics outside Districts of Workforce Shortage?	Written QoN
144	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	a) What elements or analysis are required in tender for a GP Super Clinic? b) Is there a requirement to submit a cost-benefit analysis, what documents form part of a tender? c) Are these publicly available?	Written QoN
145	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	a) Does the Commonwealth retain ownership of the land and building(s) established for a GP Super Clinic? b) Can it be sublet, and if so what are the criteria? c) Can a GP Super Clinic be sold? d) What agreement(s) are in place to govern the sale of a GP Super Clinic? e) What is to stop an operating making a 'quick buck' out of a GP Super Clinic before selling it to another operator? f) Are there restrictions on the length of time before a GP Super Clinic can be sold?	Written QoN
146	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	How has the amount of funding per GP Super Clinic location been calculated?	Written QoN
147	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Following disclosure on 18 February 2011 in Australian Doctor that the successful tender for the \$5.5 million Grafton GP Super Clinic also made a \$15,000 political donation to the Labor Party, shouldn't there be a full disclosure of the names of individuals associated with successful tenders?	Written QoN

148	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	<p>a) Further to questions asked at Estimates 23 February, what is the total number of services offered at the locations of the operational GP Super Clinics?</p> <p>b) How many of these services are GP services?</p> <p>c) How many of these were billed to Medicare?</p> <p>d) How many services were allied health services?</p> <p>e) How many services are medical specialist services?</p> <p>f) How many dialysis services have been delivered at GP Super Clinics?</p>	Written QoN
149	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	<p>a) For each of the 64 GP Super Clinics which of the five criteria for choosing a location were met?</p> <p>b) Were all the criteria given equal weighting?</p> <p>c) Was a record kept of the decision and analysis of the competing locations?</p> <p>d) How many locations were considered for the first round?</p> <p>e) How many locations were considered for the second round?</p> <p>f) Was a location which met four or five criteria more favourable than a location which met one or two?</p> <p>g) Did the Minister decide on locations on her own?</p> <p>h) If so why was the Department not involved?</p>	Written QoN
150	6	Fierravanti-Wells	Rural Health	<p>In relation to the Draft National Strategic Framework for Rural and Remote Health - Status:</p> <p>a) What is the status in the development of this framework and when will it be released/finalised?</p> <p>b) If it is with the Minister, when was it submitted to her?</p>	Written QoN
151	6	Fierravanti-Wells	ASGC-RA 1	<p>a) How many new/additional GP's or other health professionals have been engaged to work outside ASGC-RA 1 - Major Cities as a result of the Rural Health Workforce Strategy?</p> <p>b) What proportion of the new/additional doctors engaged as part of the strategy are: i) Overseas Trained Doctors (OTDs) fulfilling visa requirements; ii) Bonded medical graduates; and iii) other?</p> <p>c) How many health professionals have been successfully retained as part of the strategy?</p> <p>d) What proportion of the allocated funding for this program has been underutilised?</p>	Written QoN
152	6	Fierravanti-Wells	National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure	<p>In relation to round five of the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP):</p> <p>a) How many projects have been funded?</p> <p>b) What proportion of funded projects are: i) Capital works/refurbishment; ii) for equipment; and iii) strategic service planning for rural private hospitals?</p>	Written QoN
153	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	<p>In relation to the proposed 64 GP Super Clinics:</p> <p>a) How many of the 64 funded GP Super Clinics will be located outside Metropolitan (ASGC-RA 1) areas once the program is completed?</p> <p>b) How many of the rural, regional and remote GP Super Clinics will be or have been established through either: i) competitive or ii) direct Invitation to Apply (ITA) process?</p>	Written QoN
154	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	<p>Due to the rollout of the GP Super Clinics program, the Medicare Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) for afterhours care will be phased out by 2013, which will adversely affect rural GP's (who mostly provide their own afterhours cover), regardless of whether a GP Super Clinic has been established in a particular locality:</p> <p>a) What was the reasoning/rationale behind this?</p> <p>b) What support will be provided to those rural and regional GP's that will be adversely impacted, but will still be required to provide afterhours care?</p>	Written QoN
155	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Afterhours	<p>In addition to the phasing out of the Afterhours PIP, can DoHA advise the basis for the phasing out of the General Practice After Hours (GPAH) Program?</p>	Written QoN
156	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Locals	<p>In relation to the proposed Medicare Locals, can DoHA provide assurances that under Medicare Locals and the GP Super Clinic program, rural and regional patients will not lose a single face-to-face afterhours GP service? (whereas Medicare Locals will facilitate afterhours telephony and online GP advice and referral?)</p>	Written QoN
157	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Locals	<p>a) Under Medicare Locals, will rural and regional GP's have access to any funding similar to what the Afterhours PIP or the GPAH Program provided?</p> <p>b) Please confirm that in 2008-09, these two programs alone provided for \$132.3 million in funding which particularly benefitted rural and regional GP services and directly supported GP service provision for afterhours services.</p> <p>c) Is it not the case that Medicare Locals will only provide for co-ordination rather than delivering after-hours GP services?</p>	Written QoN
158	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Locals	<p>a) Further to the previous estimates hearing, can DoHA provide any further update about stakeholder engagement for the after-hours phone triage system in rural, regional remote areas?</p> <p>b) Will this system be incorporated into the Medicare Local program as the primary model for the provision of afterhours GP care?</p>	Written QoN
159	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Locals	<p>a) Has DoHA finalised a funding formula in relation to how funds are to be distributed equitably amongst Medicare Locals?</p> <p>b) Have any relativities been determined in relation to funding for rural and regional Medicare Locals versus metropolitan Medicare Locals?</p>	Written QoN
160	7	Fierravanti-Wells	Hearing Services Australia	<p>a) Hearing Services Australia saw a significant increase in clients, from 541,883 in 2008-09 to 568,293 in 2009-10. By what amounts did funding and staff numbers increase to cope with this growth in demand?</p> <p>b) Is there a similar pattern of demand occurring this year?</p> <p>c) If so, what resources will be made available to meet the demand?</p>	Written QoN

161	7	Fierravanti-Wells	Hear Us Inquiry	a) Did DoHA provide a response to the Hear Us Inquiry which reported on 13 May 2010? b) When did Minister Roxon approve the response? c) If it has not been approved, what is the timetable for it to be approved and delivered to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee? d) If it has not been approved what is the reason for the delay?	Written QoN
162	7	Fierravanti-Wells	Rehabilitation Plus	a) What was the rate of participation in the Rehabilitation Plus program in 2009-10? b) Has it increased and if so by what percentage? c) If not, what will the Department do to ensure the service is adequately utilised?	Written QoN
163	9	Fierravanti-Wells	Private Health Insurance Rebates	a) The government indicated in last year's budget that it intends to proceed with planned changes to the private health insurance rebates. Given the changes in private health insurance coverage and premiums over that time, what is the latest estimate of the fiscal impact of those changes? b) What is the latest revision of the expected number of people to be affected by the government's changes?	Written QoN
164	10	Fierravanti-Wells	Diabetes	a) Why was the health reform Diabetes plan dropped? b) This was a key plank of health 'reform' - another plank discarded? c) Were there any consultations about the government's initial \$436 million diabetes plan and if so with which groups/stakeholders? (So just drawn up out of the blue - another Rudd/Roxon thought bubble? d) Given the importance of combating diabetes - what plan does the government have now - does it have any plan?	Written QoN
165	10	Fierravanti-Wells	AMA Pilot Program	a) Has the government adopted the AMA pilot program model? b) How far advanced is that pilot program? c) How long will that last? d) What will happen at the end of that trial? e) Is the whole diabetes plan in chaos?	Written QoN
166	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Hospitals Closing	Under the Rudd health reforms - the then Prime Minister promised that no hospital would close under Labor's funding changes - have or are any hospitals closing?	Written QoN
167	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Adrossan, Moonta and Keith Community Hospitals	a) Can the Department explain why the South Australian Labor Government is refusing funding to the Ardrossan, Moonta and Keith Community Hospitals in that state? b) Are those hospitals going to close? c) Has the department been asked to investigate the possible closure of these hospitals? d) Is the department drawing up or considering any plans or proposals that would keep these hospitals operating?	Written QoN
168	10	Fierravanti-Wells	Regional Cancer Centres	a) Can the Department provide a status update on projects funded under the Regional Cancer Centre program - Round Two of funding under the Health and Hospitals fund? b) When will successful applications under Round Three the Regional Priority Round be informed of their funding?	Written QoN
169	10	Fierravanti-Wells	HHF	a) Given that the Government has entered into particular agreements regarding the Tamworth Hospital, the Port Macquarie Hospital and the Royal Hobart Hospital for specific funding to these hospitals what impact will that have on other applicants for funding? b) Will other, possibly more needy hospitals, receive less or no funding because of the arrangements surrounding these three hospitals? c) Are the Tamworth Hospital, the Port Macquarie Hospital and the Royal Hobart Hospital, which have special arrangements, guaranteed their funding under the regional round of funding?	Written QoN
170	10	Fierravanti-Wells	HHF	a) The agreement signed with the Independent Mr Andrew Wilkie by the government states in clause 6.3 the Federal Labor Government's contribution to the re-development of Royal Hobart 'will be delivered' - is that not special status that puts Royal Hobart Hospital above all other applications? b) In relation to Royal Hobart Hospital and that Agreement - it further states that Royal Hobart Hospital will attract 'greater Commonwealth contribution' under the reforms of the National Health and Hospital Network Agreement struck on 20 April 2010 and that under those reforms Royal Hobart can expect 60 per cent of the efficient price of each public hospital service and that it would get a Commonwealth contribution of 60 per cent of capital funding - now given that is an agreement and the Gillard Government has now dispensed with the dominant funder position of services and of contributions to capital funding will Royal Hobart continue to receive preferential treatment because of the government's agreement with the Independent Mr Wilkie? c) If no does this mean the agreement with Mr Wilkie is broken?	Written QoN
171	10	Fierravanti-Wells	Port Macquarie Hospital	a) In relation to the Port Macquarie hospital - the agreement regarding that hospital is to provide \$75 million - has the cost of the fourth pod at the Port Macquarie Hospital risen dramatically in the last few months since an agreement regarding it was signed? b) By how much has it increased? c) Who is meeting this increased cost? d) Is it guaranteed to Port Macquarie Hospital - is there an open chequebook in relation to this project? e) How is this cost increase taken account of the Hospitals and Health Fund independent assessments of projects to be funded?	Written QoN
172	10	Fierravanti-Wells	HHF	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?	Written QoN
173	10	Fierravanti-Wells	HHF	Are cost blowouts part of the HHF independent assessment process?	Written QoN

174	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Headspace	a) How many extra headspace sites are now under way as promised during election? b) What stages are each of them at?	Written QoN
175	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Mental Health	Why was mental health ignored in the Health Reform Mark II signed by the Prime Minister and state and territory leaders on 13 February?	Written QoN
176	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Mental Health	a) Given the acknowledged weakness of the DRG system in relation to mental health, what process will be used to determine the 'efficient price' of hospital-based mental health services under the new COAG funding arrangements? b) How much will be paid per service type, for metro and non-metro hospitals?	Written QoN
177	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Mental Health and Health Reform	Given the new Health Reform Mark II, does this now mean that there will be no extra money forthcoming from the Australian government specifically for community mental health services?	Written QoN
178	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Mental Health	a) What is the model of care to be employed by Medicare Locals to ensure effective community management of mental health clients? b) How will Medicare Locals link up with existing community mental health services? c) How will the effectiveness of Medicare Locals in regards to community mental health service delivery be monitored and reported? d) What outcome measures will be used and how will they be collected?	Written QoN
179	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access Program	a) Given the goal of the Better Access Program has been to increase the number of people with a mental illness receiving care, has DoHA done any work since the 2007 National Mental Health Survey to derive a more recent estimate of the number of people with a mental illness receiving care in Australia? b) If so, how was this new estimate calculated? c) Based on this new estimate, it is possible to understand better who is miss out out on care, along the lines documented in this recent MJA article? http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_04_210211/byl10438_fm.html d) What strategies are in place to increase access to care for groups now missing out?	Written QoN
180	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access	Who was on the Better Access Evaluation Steering Committee?	Written QoN
181	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access	Who was on the panel which awarded the tenders to carry out the evaluation of the Better Access Program?	Written QoN
182	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access Program	a) How many consumers and carers were consulted as part of the evaluation of the Better Access Program. Please also advise: b) How was this consultation done? c) How were they chosen? d) Which of the four components of the evaluation directly contacted consumers and carers?	Written QoN
183	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access Program	a) Which community organisations were consulted as part of the evaluation of the Better Access Program? Please also advise: b) How was this consultation done? c) How were they chosen? d) Which of the four components of the evaluation directly contacted community organisations?	Written QoN
184	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Autism	The US Centre for Disease Control has suggested there may now be an epidemic of autism. Please advise: a) Does DoHA have any information about an epidemic of autism in Australia? b) What data does DoHA currently collect with regards to surveillance on autism disease prevalence and treatment rates?	Written QoN
185	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Mental Health	In relation to Minister Butler's mental health consultations, please advise: a) Where have consultation/meetings/events taken place? b) Were they open to the public or were they by invitation only? c) If it was by invitation only, who issued the invitations? d) Provide a list of those who attended at each e) Where each consultation/meeting/event took place? f) Was anyone refused attendance at any consultation/meeting/event? g) The cost of each consultation/meeting/event?	Written QoN
186	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Headspace	a) How many of the extra 30 youth headspace centres announced by the Minister for Health have opened since her announcement on April 20, reiterated in a media release she issued on May 6 2010 and again in the budget papers? b) Of the 10 new locations announced for 2010-11, which ones will be established by 30 June 2011?	Written QoN
187	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Campbelltown Headspace	In relation to the Campbelltown Headspace site, officially opened on 11 November 2010 by the Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, please advise: a) Why is the phone number sometimes advised as disconnected (02 4727 9089)? b) Why despite advertised opening times of Monday - Friday is the Campbelltown office only open Monday - Thursday 9-5pm?	Written QoN
188	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Headspace	By what measure did the Government project that once fully established Headspace will provide services to 20,000 young people each year?	Written QoN

189	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Headspace	a) Noting that Headspace has provided services to 28,559 young people between May 2007 & June 2010, how are the 'services' defined in recording that number? b) For example is it the case that Headspace has actually seen those young people?	Written QoN
190	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Overseas Trained Doctors	a) The DoHA annual report (p311) indicates that department had a recruitment target of 100 overseas trained doctors in 2009-10, but managed to achieve only 51. What is the reason for the lower numbers? b) The annual report notes that changed registration and accreditation arrangements figured in the reduced recruitment - can you explain in what way? c) New incentives were introduced last July to boost recruitment - what impact have they had?	Written QoN
191	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Workforce Australia	Did Health Workforce Australia take over the recruitment role last year - what are the recruitment levels so far this financial year?	Written QoN
192	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Overseas Trained Doctors	The department also indicated it would carry out an evaluation to consider further options to increase recruitment of overseas trained doctors - what is the status of that evaluation and/or outcomes?	Written QoN
193	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Workforce Australia	How many senior executive service positions are there in Health Workforce Australia?	Written QoN
194	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Medical Students	a) Is Health Workforce Australia or the Department aware of any medical students, including international medical graduates, have been unable to secure an internship this year? b) Is Health Workforce Australia or the Department able to guarantee a sufficient number of internships for the number of students over coming years.	Written QoN
195	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Sub-Acute Hospital Beds	a) How many of the 1300 new sub-acute hospital beds announced in April 2010 and included in the Budget 2010 are operational? b) What states are they in? c) What is the breakdown for palliative, rehabilitative, geriatric and mental health beds?	Written QoN
196	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Incentives	What effect has the so-called 'scaling' of GP incentives (by rurality, using the ASGC-RA classification system) had on use and effectiveness of the scheme ?	Written QoN
197	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Incentives	a) How much has been spent on rural incentives to encourage GPs to move from major cities to regional and rural areas? b) How many doctors have been encouraged to move?	Written QoN
198	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Workforce Australia	a) How has the \$70 million provided by Health Workforce Australia for expanding the capacity of universities and training providers for increased clinical undergraduate training capacity been allocated? b) What has the distribution been by profession, by universities or other institution and by ASGC-RA?	Written QoN
199	5	Fierravanti-Wells	Maternity Services Review	a) What progress has there been with follow up from the Maternity Services Review? (At the time the Minister promised a new Maternity Services Plan, including additional scholarships for GPs and midwives to expand the maternity workforce, particularly in rural and remote Australia)? b) The Review/Plan also indicated that the states and territories would be asked to make complementary commitments and investments particularly around the provision of birthing centres and rural maternity units. What progress has been made with the states and territories on funding for rural maternity units? c) How many additional scholarships have been provided to GPs and midwives to provide maternity services in rural and remote Australia?	Written QoN
200	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Program	How much has been spent on the Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Programme and how has it been distributed by area (ASGC-RA) and type of procedure (eg complex restoration of emergency care and what is the total amount spent so far in the NT (as an example of how well the programme is reaching regional and remote areas?	Written QoN
201	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Multi Purpose Services	What has been the take-up to date of the \$50.7 million allocated in 2010-2011 for expanded access to Multi Purpose Services and in what locations have MPSs been established or expanded?	Written QoN
202	6	Adams	Regional Health Service Programmes	a) How much is being saved in this financial year through last year's decision not to fund further Regional Health Service Programmes? b) Will these savings be lost to rural areas or will they be allocated to rural Medicare Locals? (Last year's Budget decision on funding to Rural Health Services was described as "re-aligning services in rural and remote areas of less than 7000 population" in anticipation of the work of rural Medicare Locals)	Written QoN
203	13	Fierravanti-Wells	National Healthcare Agreement	How much of the funding under National Healthcare Agreement for subacute hospital beds, elective surgery and emergency departments has gone to regional, rural and remote areas?	Written QoN
204	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Accident and Emergency Services	What evidence is there of the extent to which hospitals in regional and rural areas, as distinct from those in capital cities, have overstretched accident and emergency services?	Written QoN
205	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Accident and Emergency Services	Where A & E and elective waiting lists are concerned, are hospitals in regional and rural areas getting better or worse?	Written QoN
206	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Hospitals	Are figures on spending in public hospitals in regional areas available by ARGC-RA remoteness areas and if so, what do they show about the relative stress being experienced by regional base hospitals as distinct from those in major cities?	Written QoN
207	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Hospitals	Are there any current expenditures that relate specifically to the work of surgical facilities and birthing centres in regional and remote hospitals?	Written QoN
208	13	Fierravanti-Wells	Hospitals	Will the recent COAG decision on hospital funding relieve the financial pressure on States to further rationalize smaller hospitals and how can the Commonwealth ensure that the CSOs of smaller hospitals are allowed for in decisions relating to their future?	Written QoN

209	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Gulgong Hospital	Can the department explain the circumstances of the closure of the Gulgong Hospital in New South Wales - closed by the New South Wales Labor Government?	Written QoN
210	1	Scullion	Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative	[National Healthcare Agreement with states and territories. The goal is to reduce the national daily smoking rate for the general population to 10 per cent by 2018, and halve the smoking rate for Indigenous Australians by that date as well.] a) I understood that was the process, but could you indicate the target benchmarks that were discussed earlier? We have 2018, but we do not want to get to 2018 and say, 'Oops.' We want to know in 2012 that our target at 2012 is a reduction to a certain point. I understood that the Closing the gap report in that regard was going to try to target. b) Have you already established a target between now and 2018-a series of targets which you believe we can meet?	CA 52 - 25/2
211	1	Scullion	Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative	Of the 20 regions that you have already funded through the Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative, how many have actually had appointed a regional tobacco coordinator and tobacco action workers?	CA 52 - 25/2
212	1	Scullion	Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative	Would one of the requirements be that they were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? [Recruiting of regional tobacco coordinators]	CA 53 - 25/2
213	1	Scullion	Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative	I was just looking for the answer as to perhaps why it was difficult to recruit in a community where 47 per cent of them smoke cigarettes. We are trying to get a non-smoker, and I thought that might be part of the issue. Have you got anything else you can add to that, as to why we seem to have such low numbers?	CA 53 - 25/2
214	1	Scullion	Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative	[Recruiting of regional tobacco coordinators] I acknowledge your comment in regard to the fact that these are other people who are organising this for you. However, it is still your position that the positions will all be filled by 2012-13, so I am assuming that is about 30 June 2013. That is a line in the sand. Given that they are not high numbers, do you have a plan to ensure that those positions are filled by that date?	CA 53 - 25/2
215	1	Scullion	Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative	[Funding for Quitline Services] a) Do you have a bit of an understanding and a scope of what ways this funding is going to be utilised in actually providing a better service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in that regard? b) I would have assumed that the research you have been speaking of would inform that report. The research you have had done-the unpronounceable research we were speaking of earlier-that talks about communication and how we deal with those sorts of issues, I am assuming would be something that would inform the training of Quitline services. c) In the answer to that question on notice, could you deal with some of the motives, and what your intention was?	CA 55 - 25/2
216	8	Boyce	FASD	a) Whilst I would like to get the information about prevention, I am more interested in people who actually have foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. What is being done to assist people who have the disorder? b) Perhaps what I should be doing is putting that question on notice then, should I, to ask for a succinct response across the board?	CA 57 - 25/2
217	8	Boyce	FASD	Will this project take into account that extra degree of difficulty? [Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, who are working on behalf of the University of Sydney and the Australian FASD collaboration to develop a diagnostic instrument.]	CA 57 - 25/2
218	10	Fierravanti-Wells	Tender 355263 - eHealth Conference Costs and iPhone App	a) Can you please provide me with some details in relation to providing audiovisual and animation services for the national e-health conference - Who it was for? What was it for? Did a report come out of it? b) How much was spent on the iPhone Application and promotion of it on the NBN website?	CA 9 - 23/2
219	10	Boyce	NEHTA	Has the overall assessment done by NEHTA of the risk assessments of IHI's become available to the public?	CA 65 - 23/2
220	10	Boyce	NEHTA	How many senior NEHTA executives went to the US for this study tour, what was the tour for and what was the cost of the tour?	CA 65 - 23/2
221	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	Whether GP Super Clinics are subject to the Commonwealth competition neutrality policy and, if not, why not?	CA 96 - 23/2
222	12	Adams	Overseas Trained Doctors in Rural Areas	Can you please provide figures for Overseas Trained Doctors by 'remoteness' classification?	CA 76 - 23/2
223	4	Fierravanti-Wells	One Stop Shops	In regards to One-Stop Shops, can I please get: a) An outline of what has been achieved, where we are at now and what is going to be implemented by 1 July? b) What does 'basic level of services' mean? I would really like to understand what it is that we are talking at, where they are going to be, what the actual service that is going to be provided is? c) Where it is not a physical location, what that service is actually going to be?	CA 43 - 23/2
224	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Funding for Carelink Centres	Given that the funding for the 54 Commonwealth Carelink centres runs out in June this year: a) Where are you up to in the process to consider refunding? b) Have you revisited your position and decided to re-fund them? c) How is that working?	CA 44 - 23/2
225	4	Fierravanti-Wells	ACAP Implementation Plan	Could you just take on notice some details in relation to the data on the delivery of the ACAP implementation plan? Can you give me more specific information about what the deliverables were and what the amount of money was, particularly in relation to New South Wales? How much are we talking about?	CA 45 - 23/2
226	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Demonstration Day for Respite	a) What is the future of 'demonstration sites for day respites in residential aged care facilities'? b) What consultations have taken place?	CA 47 - 23/2
227	4	Fierravanti-Wells	HACC Bonus Pool	With regard to the HACC Bonus Pool, please provide a snap shot of what each jurisdiction is required to do and the progress against requirements in the different States/territories.	CA 47 - 23/2

228	4	Fifield	Continance Scheme - DVA Cardholders	a) When did the Department become aware of the anomaly re DVA card holders not being eligible for continance aids? b) How many people were affected by the issue? c) How many DVA Blue Card holders are currently in the continance scheme?	CA 49 - 23/2
229	4	Siewert	ESS	a) Provide a list of extra service places by region: i) Numbers allocated; ii) Numbers provisional; iii) Numbers operating (Only WA)? b) Provide a list per region by State of the proportion of extra services places in light of the 15% cap.	CA 50 - 23/2
230	4	Siewert	ESS Rounds	In the ACAR essential guide, did areas that had a high level of extra service include areas that had offline places?	CA 51 - 23/2
231	4	Siewert	Aged Care Beds	In regards to aged care beds: a) Provide details of provisional and offline places b) How many have become operational since this time last year - also provide provisional allocation information, how many are still PAs by year and by state.	CA 52 - 23/2
232	4	Fierravanti-Wells	Alzheimer's Australia	Alzheimer's Australia (AA) complained on 11th May 10 through a press release that they were ignored in the budget last year. On 31st May they were given approval for funding. a) Were representations made on behalf of AA? b) Who provided this representation? c) What was the nature of this representation? d) Did the representation result in a change of mind?	CA 53 - 23/2
233	10	Boyce	Palliative Care	In the annual report on page 275, the Department gave a provisional figure of the percentage of specialist palliative care services that contribute to palliative care data collection and the provisional figure is 66 per cent. Are you able to tell me what the real figure is?	CA 67 - 23/2
234	10	Boyce	Copy of the Palliative Care Guidelines	Please provide a list of organizations you distribute the palliative care guidelines to once this has occurred.	CA 67 - 23/2
235	4	Adams	Dementia in the Indigenous Population	As Aboriginal people age, is there an increase in dementia in the Indigenous population?	CA 66 - 25/2
236	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Tenders	I will start on some tenders: Another one is \$207,000, almost 208,000, for providing program management services on the national Health and Hospital Network business information system project.	CA 9 - 23/2
237	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Comparison of NHHN Agreement and Heads of Agreement on Health Reform	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?	CA 17 - 23/2
238	0	Fierravanti-Wells	National Funding Authority	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?	CA 19 - 23/2
239	0	Adams	Consumers Health Forum of Australia	Was the health consumers' forum put to tender, or how were they allocated that funding?	CA 26 - 23/2
240	0	Fierravanti-Wells	Activity Based Funding	a) Can I take the example of Gulgong hospital in New south Wales? b) I do not know if any of your officers are aware - or you could perhaps take it on notice - that it was closed by the NSW Labor government. Did it close as a consequence of any proposed changes or is it another one to attribute to the NSW government?	CA 66 - 23/2
241	9	Fierravanti-Wells	Private Health	a) Was the 14.23% increase in the cost of premiums by Australian Unity, which was 8.45% greater than the average increase announced by the Minister on 1 April 2010, approved by the Minister? b) If so, why did the Minister approve such a drastic increase? c) What action will the Minister be taking to ensure that they same or similar price rise will not occur this year?	Written QoN
242	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access	What are the total number of people seen against each Better Access Medicare Items in each year since 1 November 2006?	CA 30 - 23/2
243	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access	[Of the 16.76 million mental health services provided under the initiative (from 1.11.06 to 31.12.10)]. In terms of a breakdown, how many of these people were repeat customers, so more than one GP mental healthcare plan, that sort of detail? Are you able to assist there?	CA 30 - 23/2
244	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access	a) Do we know the demographics of this population-age and gender breakdown by item-and whether the service was provided in rural, remote or urban settings? b) Can you provide [number of services provided in rural and remote areas, as well as age and sex breakdown] some of that on notice? c) That would include how many healthcare card holders?	CA 30 - 23/2

245	11	Fierravanti-Wells	Better Access	a) Given the number, I think you said 16.7 million sessions, I am interested to know the number of people who were surveyed or questioned in relation to the evaluation of the program? What has been an average sample? You have obviously, as part of the review, undertaken sampling and direct face-to-face interviewing; what sort of samples have you been taking? [Sample size of Component D] b) Could you also take on notice, in relation to those, how they were selected as part of the process? If you could just give me the number, how were they selected, a cross section of parameters-a profile, if you can, of those groups-that would be very helpful?	CA 31 - 23/2
246	11	Brown, Carol	Mental Health Review	You talked about Minister Butler when he first became the minister travelling around and talking to consumers and carers and organisations. That was in November. I know he has been very busy, but can the department or perhaps the minister tell us, from going out and understanding the issues and being informed-and I understand one of the reasons he went out was so he could be better informed about future options-what steps have been taken since the minister has finished his visits around the country?	CA 33 - 23/2
247	11	Boyce	Farmlink	Do you have a list of all of the projects that are funded under Farm Link, where they are and what their staffing is?	CA 33 - 23/2
248	11	Boyce	Mental Health NGOs in QLD	On notice, can you provide me with a list of the mental health NGOs in Queensland that you fund?	CA 36 - 23/2
249	11	Siewert	Flexible Care Packages	a) Can I just flip back to the flexible care packages? I apologise for flipping around. In terms of the case coordinators, have you spoken to the Mental Health Council of Australia and also to the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia who have been working on that particular area for quite a while? b) Okay, and the Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia? c) I am particularly interested in terms of the coordinator training program as well. Is that okay?	CA 40 - 23/2
250	1	Siewert	National Binge Drinking Strategy	Re Alcopops and the funding program. a) Last time we were here for estimates the consultation process had just gone out for the sponsorship fund, and I am just wondering about the time line for that. b) How [is it] going to start rolling out and when [do] you expect the time frame to start rolling out so the fund becomes operational? c) The other two programs that were part of the alcopops funding package that we have been discussing on and off through estimates-could you also provide an update on those programs on notice?	CA 120 - 23/2
251	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Denied Medicare Rebates	If health practitioners have been denied Medicare rebates, is the Department aware of whether they have been able to claim under private health insurance and, if so, have they been left out of pocket?	CA 73 - 23/2
252	0	Siewert	Contracts	Would you be able to tell me what proportion of the contracts you have are commercial and, bearing in mind that I understand the fuzzy boundary, what proportion are not for profit and for profit?	CA 11 - 23/2
253	8	Siewert	Indigenous Chronic Disease Package Workforce	Requested a copy of a table setting out Indigenous Chronic Disease Package Workforce figures.	CA 55 - 25/2
254	8	Boyce	FASD	a) How many on the ground staff are there undertaking that project (Marulu: Lirilwan Project)? b) What are their professional backgrounds etc? c) Can you give me a picture of what their operations on the ground look like across the past 12 months? d) Can you tell us if there is some support in there from the education side, that they have assistants working with them?	CA 57-58 - 25/2
255	8	Siewert	Ilpurla Aboriginal Corporation (substance use residential rehabilitation provider)	a) What level of funding does the Ilpurla Aboriginal Corporation receive? b) Could you take on notice the increase in the level of funding?	CA 68 - 25/2
256	0	Boyce	List of Recent AIHW Publications	Would the AIHW like to table the list of AIHW publications done since last estimates?	CA 27 - 23/2
257	0	Adams	Funding of AIHW Work on Rural and Remote Health	Senator ADAMS—How much is allocated in the out years to AIHW specifically for its work on rural and remote health? I am trying to find your pie chart but unfortunately I have mislaid it. Mr Kalisch—I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure whether we would have that information readily at hand. Senator ADAMS—If you could take it on notice, thank you very much.	CA 29 - 23/2
258	12	Fierravanti-Wells	Health Workforce Australia	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—In the red book at A2.26 it talks about Health Workforce Australia and about it being operational in February 2010 and it then says, 'It then commenced a recruitment process throughout May/June 2010 with a high percentage of interest coming from government public servants.' It then says, 'A minute to the minister will be provided detailing options for your consideration.' Would Minister Roxon need to discuss this issue with the Minister for Finance and Deregulation if more funding is required? Is there a question there of extra funding? ... Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Have sufficient staff been recruited? Ms Halton—My understanding is that they have a reasonable complement of staff, yes. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—The reason I ask is that we have trawled through here. If you remember—probably a couple of estimates ago—we discussed the number of senior executive positions that they were putting in newspapers and I thought it was up to about 120 positions. If my recollection serves me correctly, it was about \$30 million just in terms of start-up costs. Could I just have a sort of snapshot as to where we are at there? Ms Halton—We will take that on notice and give you a picture of it.	CA 71—72 - 23/2

259	1	Ludlam	Radiation Workers	<p>Senator LUDLAM—Can I put this question to the minister at the table: would you undertake to find out when the workforce radiation workers will be able to access that archive and when researchers will be able to access that archive, presumably de-identified?</p> <p>Senator McLucas—I will certainly take that on notice and Parliamentary Secretary King will provide us information.</p>	CA 108 - 23/2
260	5	Fierravanti-Wells	GP Super Clinics	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—It is a 20-year contract. I know I have asked in relation to GP superclinics' monitoring of funding arrangements. Is it possible to get a standard form, a template, of a GP superclinic agreement without any names put into it? Is there such a thing as a standard GP—</p> <p>Ms Morris—Yes, that can be provided.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Can you provide that for me? That will answer questions in relation to breaches—presumably breach of contract, any exit clauses for those—I am assuming?</p> <p>Ms Morris—I am getting a lot of nods behind me.</p>	CA 96 - 23/2
261	13	Boyce	Palliative Care Bed Closures	<p>Senator BOYCE—My question to the federal department had been whether you would have any figures on palliative care bed closures in Australia, state-by-state, over the past nine months or since the end of the financial year?</p> <p>Ms Halton—Not that I am aware of. As you would realise, there are all manners of data in the AIHW in various places. I am not aware of them and I have not had it drawn to my attention.</p> <p>Senator BOYCE—I would be grateful, if it is not too much hassle, if there is anything that you are able to provide there.</p> <p>Ms Halton—If there is something readily available I am happy to do it, but it may be quite a difficult task.</p>	CA 67 - 23/2
262	13	Xenophon	Hospitals	<p>Senator XENOPHON—I had an opportunity to speak with you and some of your officers outside of estimates regarding the issue involving the Keith and District Hospital. I am grateful to Senator Adams, who shares these concerns, and the member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, has raised these issues as well in relation to the Ardrossan, Keith and Moonta hospitals north of Adelaide and in the south-east at Keith and District Hospital. I understand the federal government is now saying that it will take responsibility for 50 per cent of hospital funding. There are issues in relation to overloaded hospital facilities in the Moonta and Ardrossan hospitals. Is the government aware of those particular issues?</p> <p>Ms Halton—I can make two comments. Firstly, we need to be clear that what we have agreed is, over time, to take a 50 per cent share of the growth and efficient cost in a volume of hospitals. Mathematically, over time, it could take a while to get to 50 per cent. A number of my officers have some awareness of the particular issues, as we discussed outside the room. As I indicate to you, it had not been brought to my attention. I think that you are aware that we have a particular aged-care interest in one of these areas, but, as you are also aware, the principle issue rests with the state. We are happy to make some further inquiries with our state colleagues in relation to the issue.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—Can you take on notice that those concerns include the fact that there are 14 acute beds and something like 19 long-term aged beds?</p> <p>Ms Halton—Yes.</p>	CA 129 - 23/2