

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 – 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000315

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: Imported Blood Products

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Murray Watt

Question:

- a) The NBA suggests in one of its document for industry that it is aware of market intelligence that suggests there may be the potential to achieve an improved value for money outcome. Can you explain the term improved value for money outcome.
- b) Does the NBA expect the process to potentially deliver savings to the Budget?
- c) How useful would the NBA characterise previous consultations have been in informing future planning and decision making?

Answer:

- a) The National Blood Authority (NBA) is seeking to procure high quality blood products and associated services approved by Australian governments under the National Blood Agreement at internationally competitive prices in a manner that offers security of supply and has regard for other policy objectives of Australian governments and provides for an acceptably low level of risk in dealing with contracted suppliers. The evaluation of value for money is conducted in accordance with Commonwealth procurement policy, including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.
- b) Arrangements under the National Blood Agreement for blood and blood products are funded by Commonwealth, state and territory governments. Procurement processes can potentially deliver savings to the contributions made by governments under these arrangements but it is too early to say whether this will be achieved from the current process.
- c) The NBA has found that previous consultation processes have greatly assisted future planning and decision making.