

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000464

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: PHNs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: O'Neill, Deborah

Question:

Can the Department explain how it engages with each of the 31 PHNs? Does the Department meet regularly with the PHNs or a representative of people from the PHNs? If yes, what do you discuss in these meetings?

Answer:

The Department of Health has a number of mechanisms to engage with each of the 31 PHNs. These include:

- monthly teleconferences with PHN Chief Executive Officers (CEOs). These teleconferences provide PHN CEOs with updates on relevant policy and operational issues from across the Department through a centralised mechanism.
- bi-monthly PHN Chairs teleconference and face-to-face meetings. These teleconferences enable the Department to engage with PHN Chairs on strategic, systems focussed issues relevant to PHNs.
- annual PHN CEO workshop. This workshop enables CEOs to come together face-to-face to discuss risks and challenges, exchange knowledge and expertise and strengthen collaboration across the PHN network.
- annual National PHN Forum. This Forum enables staff and Chairs from PHNs to come together to enhance collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing across the network.
- centralised email inbox. Email communication from across the Department to PHNs is through a centralised email address to support streamlined communication.
- one-on-one or jurisdictional interactions. These interactions occur as needed and enable the Department and PHNs to discuss issues of relevance to individual PHNs or at a jurisdictional level.