

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000630

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Primary Health Networks

Type of Question: Hansard Page 58, 1 June 2015

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

You might want to take this on notice: what due diligence does the department ordinarily perform in awarding these tenders? Can you point us to the source document and the protocols in respect of that? I am trying to get the shorter version from you, so I am happy for you to point us to the publicly available documents or any other documents, in addition to the material on the public domain could you provide me with any other documents or reference points in terms of issues of due diligence?

Answer:

Due diligence activities undertaken as part of the Primary Health Networks Invitation to Apply (ITA) process included:

- Financial viability assessments undertaken by an external firm;
- The requirement for identification of perceived or actual conflicts of interest;
- Signing of acknowledgements and declarations by applicants in relation to compliance with legislation and the provision of accurate information;
- Review of any identified conflicts and proposed management strategies, including seeking external legal advice as required; and
- A two tiered assessment process involving state and central office staff.

Please also refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice SQ15-000632.