

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000632

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Health Networks

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 59, 1 June 2015

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

No, if there was a disclosure requirement in terms of any potential conflicts, and it was not disclosed, is that something that would influence the department in considering the award of contracts or tenders?

**Answer:**

An open approach to market to select PHN operators was issued through the competitive *Primary Health Networks Programme Invitation to Apply for Funding* (ITA) released on 29 November 2014. The ITA was a transparent and competitive process and the Department of Health undertook a rigorous assessment process to select organisations of the highest capacity and capability to operate PHNs across Australia.

In relation to the award of contracts or tenders, the department considers all information that is provided to it by applicants and other sources, as well as any information the department may seek (as outlined on p. 25 of the ITA), including information that was not disclosed by the applicant. The department then progresses with an appropriate course of action depending on the information received.