

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000667

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: PHN Contracts

Type of Question: Hansard Page 48, 1 June 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: Are those contracts still ongoing?

Mr Booth: Some of them are, yes.

Senator McLUCAS: Which ones?

Mr Booth: I just need to double-check. There is still some advice that the department is doing in terms of working through the contracts. We have legal advice for working through contracts. We also have probity advice for working through contracts. In terms of the specific contracts—you are asking around the contracts that were specifically done for the assessment of those—it might be a bit difficult to look at that because I suspect it was an ongoing contract through the PHN establishment phase as well as the assessment phase.

Senator McLUCAS: What I am trying to ascertain is the cost to the department.

Mr Booth: Sure. The total cost—

Senator McLUCAS: Staff costs?

Mr Booth: In total, like I say, around \$500,000, but we will get the exact numbers for you.

Answer:

As of the day of Budget Estimates, 1 June 2015, one contract was ongoing. This was the contract with Clayton Utz in relation to probity advice for the Primary Health Network assessment process.

Staff cost is covered in answer to Question on Notice SQ15-000621.