

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012**

**Question:** E12-118

**OUTCOME 0:** Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** COMMISSIONED REPORTS

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 4

**Senator:** Senator Boyce

**Question:**

- a) How many Reports were commissioned by the Government in your department/agency in 2011-12? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- b) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- c) What is the current status of each report? Did the Government report within the required timeframe? If not, when is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

The term 'reports' is fairly broad and ambiguous. In answering this question, the Department of Health and Ageing has interpreted it to refer to major policy associated reports, asked for by Cabinet or the Minister. This answer excludes internal reports which are undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs, or which are undertaken as part of administrative processes, and excludes report publications which are produced as part of statutory obligations and program responsibilities of the Health and Ageing Portfolio.

Answers to questions a), b) and c) appear in the attached table.

a) The Number of Reports Commissioned by the Government in the Department of Health and Ageing in 2011-12 was four (4).

**2012 National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey**

a) Date Commissioned	29 June 2011
a) Date report handed to government	12 October 2012
a) Date of public release	Pending Ministerial approval.
a) Terms of reference	<p>The objectives of this project are to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a comprehensive profile of the direct aged care workforce in residential and community aged care settings, covering factors such as age, gender, qualification, and employment status;</li> <li>• reliable data on aged care workforce characteristics that can be used to inform the Government's aged care workforce policy and program development, and to identify trends and emerging issues relevant to this workforce;</li> <li>• a census of the skills and functions of the workforce (e.g. a competency index); and</li> <li>• information that will be used to further develop workforce planning around recruitment, training and retention and build a skilled and flexible workforce, to ensure staff have the appropriate skills and qualifications to meet the care needs of consumers of the Australian aged care system.</li> </ul>
a) Committee members	<p>Ms Leslie Dredge                      Aged and Community Services Australia</p> <p>Ms Ruth Wilson                        Aged and Community Services Australia</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Teece (Proxy)        Aged and Community Services Australia – NSW &amp; ACT</p> <p>Ms. Yvonne Chaperon                Australian Nursing federation</p> <p>Ms Jane Louis                            Australian Physiotherapy Association</p> <p>Ms Monique Irvine                    Health Services Union of Australia</p> <p>Mr Etienne Scheepers                Health Workforce Australia</p> <p>Mr. Fearnley Szuster (Proxy)        Health Workforce Australia</p> <p>Prof. Yvonne Wells                    Lincoln Centre for Research on Ageing, La Trobe University</p> <p>Dr. Debra King                         National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University</p> <p>Prof. Kostas Mavromaras            National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University</p>
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	\$791,718.11 (incl. GST).
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	0.5 APS6, 0.03 EL1, 0.01 EL2.
c) Current Status	Not yet released.
c) Timeframes*	Not Applicable.
c) Date of Government Response	Not Applicable.

\* The Department is unable to comment on Government performance against timeframes

The Response to **Senate Estimate Question on Notice E12-117** included details of three (3) other Commissioned Reports. Below are listed updates to this response, to reflect later developments. Changes are highlighted in red text.

***Australian Incontinence Data Analysis and Development Report***

a) Date Commissioned	On 23 February 2012 the Department commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to review and update the <i>Australian Incontinence Data Analysis and Development</i> report.
a) Date report handed to government	In progress.
a) Date of public release	Unknown at this stage.
a) Terms of reference	The scope of the project is to provide the Department with an updated version of the 2006 report, <i>Australian Incontinence Data Analysis and Development</i> , and will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A published report including up to date data statistics on the prevalence and costs to the health system of incontinence in Australia; and</li> <li>• A published bulletin including up to date key statistics on the prevalence and costs to the health system of incontinence in Australia.</li> </ul>
a) Committee members	There is no Advisory or Steering Committee arrangement in place for the project.
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	\$228,792.00 (GST Inclusive).
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	0.1 FTE at the EL2 level and 0.25 FTE at the APS 6 level for the management of the project.
c) Current Status	In progress.
c) Timeframes*	Not Applicable.
c) Date of Government Response	Unknown at this stage.

\* The Department is unable to comment on Government performance against timeframes

***Review and Update of the Dementia in Australia (2007) Report***

a) Date Commissioned	On 15 June 2010 the Department commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to review and update the <i>Dementia in Australia</i> report.
a) Date report handed to government	Not Applicable.
a) Date of public release	27 September 2012.
a) Terms of reference	In 2005, the Department funded AIHW to produce a comprehensive report on dementia in Australia. The <i>Dementia in Australia</i> report was published in 2007. The report was reviewed and updated with more recent data on disease burden, incidence and prevalence of dementia in Australia and characteristics and service use of people with dementia.
a) Committee members	No formal committee was in place, however AIHW established a reference group to advise on the project. Representatives include relevant peak bodies and health and aged care professionals with dementia expertise. The Department was also represented on this group.
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	\$550,309.80 (GST Inclusive).
b) How many departmental	0.01 FTE at SES Band 1 level, 0.10 FTE at the EL2 level, 0.25 FTE

staff were involved and at what level?	at the EL1 level and 0.5 FTE at the APS6 level during the drafting and finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding.
c) Current Status	Completed.
c) Timeframes*	Not Applicable.
c) Date of Government Response	Not Applicable.

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<b>Options for Improving the Health Outcomes of Patients Treated With Anticoagulation</b>	
a) Date Commissioned	30 September 2011
a) Date report handed to government	Not Applicable.
a) Date of public release	Not Applicable.
a) Terms of reference	<p>The Terms of Reference are:</p> <p>a. To report on current and future options for improving the health outcomes of patients with atrial fibrillation treated with oral anticoagulants.</p> <p>b. To report on modes of health system delivery which may be used to optimise the use of currently available anticoagulants.</p> <p>c. To report to what extent optimisation of the use of currently available anticoagulant treatments used in patients with atrial fibrillation would improve health outcomes and at what cost.</p> <p>d. To examine the future role of newer anticoagulant therapies for atrial fibrillation.</p> <p>e. To report on any other matter relevant to items a to d above and on any other matters referred to it by the Minister.</p>
a) Committee members	<p>Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO Chairs the committee and is being supported by a Reference Group which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Luke Bereznicki, Pharmacy Practice</li> <li>• Professor Terry Campbell, Cardiologist</li> <li>• Ms Karen Carey, Consumers Health Forum nominee</li> <li>• Dr Joanne Joseph, Clinical Haematologist</li> <li>• Professor David Le Couteur, Geriatrician</li> <li>• Professor Richard Lindley, National Stroke Foundation nominee</li> <li>• Dr Danielle Stowasser, National Prescribing Service nominee</li> <li>• Professor Peter Macdonald, Cardiologist Dr Ross Maxwell, General Practitioner (rural area)</li> </ul>
b) Cost of report/ estimation of cost (\$)	The cost is estimated to be \$400,000 and will be funded through the 2011-12 Budget measure <i>Improving sustainability of the PBS through enhanced post-market surveillance</i> .
b) How many departmental staff were involved and at what level?	<p>0.3 Executive Level 2</p> <p>1 Executive Level 1</p> <p>0.5 APS 5</p>
c) Current Status*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Issues and Options Paper, summarising key themes, was released for further comment on 29 June 2012. There was also a stakeholder forum held on 4 July 2012.</li> <li>• On 13 September 2012, the Reference Group reviewed the draft final report.</li> <li>• The final report will be provided to the Government shortly.</li> </ul>
c) Date of expected Government Response	This will be a decision for Government.

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