

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-379

OUTCOME 1. Population Health

Topic: VISION 2020 AUSTRALIA STOCKTAKE AND SECOND PROGRESS REPORT TO HEALTH MINISTERS

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

In 2011 the Department of Health and Ageing contracted Vision 2020 Australia to conduct an Eye Health Stocktake, the contract was not released for tender or discussed with any other organisations or other stakeholders in the eye health or rehabilitation sector. Following complaints that the process was not transparent or independent and concerns with regard to sharing individual organisation's intellectual property with Vision 2020 (seen by many as a competitor), it was then subcontracted to Allen Consulting. The draft report was presented to the Vision 2020 Board and then presented to the Department in late 2011. To date, other than the Vision 2020 Board, no one outside of the Department has seen this report or its findings.

- a) Why was the tender for the Stocktake not opened for a Competitive tender process?
- b) Why has only one organisation in the Eye Sector and their Board members been provided an opportunity to amend and view this report?
- c) When is the report going to be released?

Answer

- a) It was considered that Vision 2020 Australia was best placed to undertake this work because it is the peak body for the eye health and vision care sector, had established network and reputation within the sector and because it was familiar with the aims of The Framework.

The process was consistent with the requirements of the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

- b) The stocktake report was intended to inform the development of the second progress report to Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council and the Standing Committee on Health. It was necessary for Vision 2020 Australia to view the stocktake report as it was the organisation funded to conduct the stocktake.

Vision 2020 Australia consulted broadly across all state and territory governments, Vision 2020 Australia members and other key stakeholders to provide information on eye health activity as part of the stocktake. Jurisdictional input was coordinated through the Community Care and Population Health Principal Committee, (formerly known as the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee).

- c) The second progress report to Health Ministers has been prepared by the Department and incorporates the key findings of the stocktake report.

The second progress report has been endorsed by Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council and submitted to the Standing Council on Health for consideration.

Subject to the endorsement by Standing Council on Health, it is expected that this report will be made publicly available on the Department of Health and Ageing's website.