

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001178

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Australian Hearing

Type of Question: Hansard Page 81, 22 October 2014

Senator: Bilyk, Catryna

Question:

Senator BILYK: The terms of reference for the scoping study identifies one of the considerations in the possible privatisation as the conflicting reporting requirements on Australian Hearing to two different parts of government. This concern seems to centre on the conflicting aims of Australian Hearing in meeting its obligations to deliver services under the Voucher program and the Community Service Obligation program under its MOU with the Office of Hearing Services, and being accountable for its financial performance to the Department of Human Services. Do you think that is correct? Do you agree with that?

Ms Faichney: I would have to take that on notice. I am not aware of the details.

Senator BILYK: You will take that on notice?

Ms Faichney: Yes.

Answer:

The Terms of Reference for the Scoping Study were developed by the Department of Finance.

Australian Hearing has two clear reporting obligations that are not in conflict. Reporting requirements to the Department of Health (Office of Hearing Services) are specified under contractual arrangements for service delivery. Australian Hearing's reporting obligations to the Department of Human Services are consistent with those required of a portfolio agency.