

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-001201

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Commissioned Reports

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

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. How many reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency?
  - a) Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

1. Between the Budget Estimates hearing in June 2014 and the Supplementary Budget Estimates in October 2014, two reports have been commissioned by the Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton MP; the final report on the Review of the GP Super Clinics Programme and the Report on the Medicare Locals' Deed for Funding and Programme Agreements.

The Review of the GP Super Clinics Programme

- a) The report commissioned is the final report for the Review of the GP Super Clinics Programme. The final report was submitted to the Department on 25 November 2014. A decision is yet to be made by the Government on whether the report will be publicly released. The Terms of Reference for the Review are at Attachment A.
2. McGrathNicol Advisory Partnership (McGrathNicol) has been contracted to undertake the review at a cost of \$395,175 (GST inclusive). One EL1 Departmental officer is managing the contract as part of their duties.
3. The final report was submitted to the Department on 25 November 2014. The Government is currently considering the report and its response.

### The Report on the Medicare Locals' Deed for Funding and Programme Agreements

- a) The Department commissioned McGrathNicol on 1 July 2014 to provide the Commonwealth with an estimate of the cost and categories that may be payable by the Commonwealth associated with the termination for convenience of the Medicare Locals' Deed for Funding and Programme Agreements. The report was provided to the Department in early September 2014. The report is not publicly available.
2. The cost of the report was \$193,600 (GST inclusive). The report was developed entirely by McGrathNicol.
3. The report does not require a response.

## **Terms of Reference for the Independent Review of the GP Super Clinics Programme**

### **Scope of Service Requirements**

The specific requirements of the review are to examine and critically assess the following points for each the 61 sites:

**Phase 1:** Examine, critically assess and provide findings on:

- A1 the initial GP Super Clinic Ministerial and other public announcements and program objectives;
- A2 the funding agreements and subsequent variations executed by the funding recipient and the Commonwealth, and, in particular, the fitness for purpose or otherwise of those agreements including consideration as to the ability of the Commonwealth to enforce compliance;
- A3 the audited financial statements<sup>1</sup> of each of the GP Super Clinics to determine if the programme achieved value for money and whether the grant funds were expended in-line with the objectives of the GP Super Clinic program and in accordance with the Funding Agreement;
- A4 the progress to date of the individual sites in the context of the administration and implementation of the whole GP Super Clinic program rollout and, also, taking into account each funding agreement milestones;
- A5 performance under the contract;
- A6 the reasons for any delays in respect of the sites and any mitigation strategies available and/or pursued and/or could be pursued; and
- A7 any other compliance issues associated with the progress of the sites.

---

<sup>1</sup> The GP Super Clinic Funding Agreement requires Organisations to provide the Department with audited financial statements prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards by an Approved Auditor for each financial year grant funds are expended. These reports are held in Departmental files for each of the Organisations.