

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001364

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Non-Conventional Therapies

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Ludwig, Joe

Question:

1. Since 7 September 2013 are non-conventional therapies, for staff or ministerial use, able to be provided by the department/agency? (Including, but not limited to: Music Therapy, Hypnosis, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, etc) If yes:

- a) What is the process by which these therapies can be approved?
- b) Who are they available to?
- c) Please detail the reasons the therapies able to be provided (e.g. Work Place Agreement, recommended by a report to the department, etc)?

2. Has the department/agency paid for any non-conventional therapy for any Minister or staff? If yes:

- a) What therapies have been provided?
- b) What were they used to treat?
- c) What was the cost of the therapy?

Answer:

1. Yes. Hypnotherapy and acupuncture are available to staff in the Department of Health through the Smoke Free Workplace Policy. The Department does not provide non-conventional therapies for the Ministers or their staff.

- a) Staff need to seek approval for a proposed smoking cessation approach and its anticipated cost from the relevant policy area.
- b) APS and SES staff at the Department of Health.
- c) The Smoke Free Workplace policy aligns with the Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014 which demonstrates the department's commitment to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all staff.

2. See response to question 1.

- a-c) Not applicable.