

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000851

**OUTCOME:** 10 - Sport and Recreation

**Topic:** FFA/World Cup bid

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

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

At the last Senate Estimates I asked a series of questions about this payment and the overall funding of the Commonwealth for the bid.

Departmental officials repeatedly told the committee that there was “no evidence” of co-mingling of FFA funds used for this payment, and bid funds provided by the Commonwealth.

The Department was satisfied at the acquittal of public funds, the Committee was told. In a follow-up letter to the Committee by Deputy Secretary of the Health Department Andrew Stuart, it was again said that “The Department is not aware of any evidence of co-mingling of funds” and goes on to say that “in light of the issues raised” the Department is writing to FFA “to obtain further assurance in relation to the payment to CONCACAF”.

On the face of it, is it a bit of a stretch to say that the Department wasn't aware of any evidence of any co-mingling, given the attempt by FFA in December 2010 to claim the \$500,000 in the first instance?

Isn't that attempt by FFA to claim the \$500,000 payment on the tax payer evidence of co-mingling of funds – because it was trying to use tax payer funds for bid activities for which it wasn't appropriate?

Is the Department aware of any other attempts by FFA to bill the tax payer for payments as part of the World Cup bid that could not be justified under the rules for the acquittal of public money?

Why didn't the Department tell the Committee back in June about this issue, either in its evidence in the hearing or in the follow-up letter from Deputy Secretary Mr Stuart?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health was and remains satisfied that the payment of \$500,000 made by FFA to CONCACAF was entirely funded by FFA funds that did not originate from the Commonwealth. The Department's acquittal process and an examination of FFA's audited payments both confirmed that the CONCACAF payment was not met from money sourced from the Commonwealth under the Funding Agreement.