

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000904

**OUTCOME:** 11 – Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** Workforce Stocktake and Strategy

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

At a meeting with the aged care sector on 5 February 2014, the Department of Social Services and its Ministers, met with representatives from the aged care sector to discuss how the Aged Care Workforce Supplement would be utilised. The Minister announced he had instructed the Department to undertake a stocktake of aged care workforce initiatives. Following that, on 13 June 2014, at the second meeting of the Aged Care Sector Committee, the Minister further announced he would undertake a stocktake of government funded aged care workforce initiatives, as the first stage of developing a national aged care workforce development strategy.

- a) Has this stocktake been undertaken? If so, was it undertaken by the department or was another organisations commissioned to undertake this stocktake?
- b) If an external organisation was contracted to undertake the stocktake, please outline what group? Was this organisation chosen by the Department or did that go out to tender? If the Department chose the organisation, on what basis was this organisation chosen?
- c) How much has the stocktake process and report cost? Where has this funding come from (which part of the Ageing and Aged Care Budget)? Has that bill been paid?
- d) If the report has been delivered, when did the department receive it? Was it delivered to the former Assistant Minister for Social Services? When? Has it been delivered to the new Minister and/or the Assistant Minister?
- e) When will the Government release the stocktake report to the public?
- f) What will be the next step toward the development of a workforce strategy?

**Answer:**

The stocktake and analysis of Commonwealth-funded aged care workforce activities (the stocktake) has been undertaken and the report has been submitted to the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley's office for consideration.

The Department of Health engaged external consultants, Health Outcomes International to undertake the stocktake. An open tender process was undertaken to select an appropriate organisation to undertake the stocktake. The Request for Tender (RFT) was published on Aus Tender on 20 June 2014 and closed on 15 July 2014. A qualitative assessment method was used to assess each tender against the selection criteria, participation and evaluation criteria

as stated in the RFT. The total cost of the stocktake process and report was \$168,151.00 (GST inclusive). This amount has been paid in full. Funding for this project was sourced from the Aged Care Workforce Fund.

The Department received the final report in August 2015. It was provided to the former Assistant Minister for Social Services, the Hon Mitch Fifield MP, in September 2015. It was subsequently returned to the Department following the Machinery of Government changes. It was submitted to the Hon Sussan Ley MP.

Release of the stocktake report is a matter for Government.

Government will consider the next steps after it has-considered the stocktake report.