

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION**  
**(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)**

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Question: SBT 241

Topic: COAG Health Reforms

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) A key aspect of the so-called reforms is the clawback of GST funds from the states to enable the Commonwealth to say that it will provide 60% of hospital funding – that legislation was presented to the previous Parliament, but has not been re-introduced, why is that the case?
- b) When will the legislation be reintroduced into the Parliament to amend the GST funding agreement with states to enable the COAG health reforms to be implemented?
- c) What are the administrative implications for the implementation of the COAG health reforms if this legislation is not passed by 1 July 2011?

**Answer:**

- a) The legislation has been re-introduced. The Federal Financial Relations Amendment (National Health and Hospitals Network) Bill 2010 was introduced into the House of Representatives on 27 October 2010 and was passed by the House on 24 November 2010.
- b) Refer to the answer to (a).
- c) A range of financing reforms set out in the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement cannot proceed without amendments to the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*. The financing reforms effected by the Federal Financial Relations Amendment (National Health and Hospitals Network) Bill 2010 are detailed in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill.