

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 674 - 686

Topic: National Injury Insurance Scheme

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

With reference to Minister Macklin's press release of 10 August 2011, "Productivity Commission's Final Report into Disability Care and Support, which states that "the Government will convene a working group led by the Assistant Treasurer to work with State and Territory Governments, lawyers and other stakeholders to progress this important reform (a National Injury Insurance Scheme)":

674. Has the working group led by the Assistant Treasurer to work with the states and territories to harmonise their approach to catastrophic injury convened yet?

a) If so, can Treasury provide details of those meetings, including date and location?

675. Who are the members of the working group?

676. How were members to the working group selected?

a) What were the criteria for membership of the Assistant Treasurer's working group?

677. What are the terms of reference for the working group?

678. When were terms of reference for the working group finalised?

679. What discussion was there at COAG about the National Injury Insurance Scheme?

680. Which stakeholders have been consulted by the working group regarding the NIIS and when were they consulted?

681. Which lawyers have been consulted by the working group regarding the NIIS?

682. What expenditure has Treasury dedicated towards the development of a National Injury Insurance Scheme over the forward estimates?

683. How many staff are currently working on the development of a National Injury Insurance Scheme?

a) Can the Department provide a breakdown by APS level?

684. Can Treasury provide a breakdown of expenditure by the working group to date?

685. What outcomes does the NIIS working group have to deliver by the next COAG meeting?

686. How much of the \$10 million the Government has so far committed towards the technical policy work has been given to Treasury and the National Injury Insurance Scheme?

Answer:

674. Yes the advisory group has convened. Its first meeting was on 2 November 2011 at Parliament House in Canberra.

675. See Minister Shorten's press release of 2 November 2011 for membership of advisory group.

676. Membership of the group was determined by Minister Shorten.

677. There are no formal terms of reference for the group.

678. See answer to question 677

679. The August 2011 COAG communiqué noted the Productivity Commission's recommendations in relation to a National Injury Insurance Scheme and agreed to work together to consider the Productivity Commission's recommendation.

680. The advisory group comprises National Injury Insurance Scheme stakeholders and will be consulting with other stakeholders as appropriate.

681. We are not aware that lawyers have been consulted by the advisory group, although there are two legal representatives on the advisory group.

682. To date, no expenditure has been allocated by Treasury to the development of a National Injury Insurance Scheme over the forward estimates.

683. There are 3 staff currently spending a portion of their time assisting with the consideration of a National Injury Insurance Scheme.

a) EL2, APS 6, APS 4 with other staff assisting as necessary.

684. It is estimated that \$2,500 has been spent so far. This money was used for travel expenses for the first advisory group meeting.

685. Confidential

686. To date, the Treasury hasn't received any of the funds committed towards the technical policy work.