

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2007

Question: F40

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: ANAO Report – Department of Health and Ageing

Written Question on Notice

Senator SHERRY asked:

1) ANAO recommended that the Department of Health develop, and provide, a principles document, which included a more detailed summary of its compliance processes, so that the States might provide more useful compliance assessment data.

- Is the Department of Finance monitoring progress by the Department of Health in developing a principles document providing more details of its compliance processes for the States, as recommended by ANAO and agreed by Health?
- Can Finance advise the Committee of the progress?

2) ANAO identified weaknesses in the consistency and accuracy of data on waiting times from the States and Territories, and the frequency of analysis by Health.

- Can the Department of Finance advise the Committee on progress by Health in working with the States and Territories to improve the consistency and accuracy of data on waiting times, as recommended by ANAO?

Answer:

1) The ANAO Audit Report 19 ‘Administration of State and Territory Compliance with the Australian Health Care Agreements’ did not recommend a role for the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) in formally monitoring the progress of the Department of Health and Ageing against the ANAO’s recommendations. Finance notes that accountability for implementing the recommendations of the report lies with the Department of Health and Ageing.

2) No. As noted above, accountability for implementing the recommendations of the report lies with the Department of Health and Ageing.