

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

Question: PM15

Topic: COAG - Review of decisions since 2007

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Senator PAYNE-Thank you very much. If there are further questions that I want to put on notice in relation to those issues around the Reform Council, Chair, I will do that, and I appreciate the officers' guidance. Can we go to the review of COAG decisions since 2007? The communique from 2009 indicates: COAG also reviewed the implementation of its other decisions since 2007 and found that the majority are being implemented as agreed, with actions being taken to address the small minority of initiatives experiencing problems.

It also said: COAG also agreed that all First Ministers would closely monitor the ongoing implementation of COAG initiatives and that Senior Officials would review progress with any initiatives that are experiencing implementation problems or delays.

Is it possible to advise the committee which COAG initiatives were determined to be those initiatives experiencing problems by that statement?

Dr Grimes-I would have to take that on notice.

Answer: As noted in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) communiqué, good progress was reported to COAG on the majority of decisions since early December 2007. Of the large number of initiatives agreed by COAG since that date some 10 were identified prior to the 7 December 2009 COAG meeting as requiring closer scrutiny by COAG in relation to their implementation. COAG subsequently asked Senior Officials, and the COAG Reform Council in two instances, to review the progress of those initiatives and report back to it. This process is currently in train. It

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is not possible to release other details without the agreement of all the other members of COAG.