

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

Question: PM15a - b

Topic: Changes to PM's website

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 25 May p79

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Number of pages: 1

PM15a:

Senator CORMANN—I am pretty sure I know why the change was made. The change was made because the more ambitious target was not able to be met and so it was watered down. That is just the reality of it. Can you provide me on notice with an overview of the level of interaction there has been between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the health department and the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission in terms of making sure that the deadlines set by the government are being met?

PM15b:

Senator CORMANN— ... I want to get a bit more details around what ‘active interest’ means and what is being done from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s point of view to ensure that the health department and the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission meet their deadlines, bearing in mind that we are one month away from the middle of 2009 when we either should have been seeing significant progress towards implementation or should have seen the finalisation of a plan, depending on which version of the website we go by. I will leave it at that.

Mr Mrdak—We will certainly take it on notice to give you more detail...

Answer: The Department has had contact with the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, including meetings with members of the Commission. The deadline for the Commission to report to Government as outlined in their terms of reference was June 2009 and this deadline was met.