

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: PM18

Outcome 1, Output 2

Topic: PM18: Medibank Private - Consultation with Department of Health and Ageing

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 25 May p83

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

Number of pages: 1

Senator CORMANN-While you are taking things on notice, given your responsibility for whole-of-government coordination of decisions, policies and strategic directions, did you ensure that the Department of Health and Ageing was consulted by central agencies in considering this decision?

Answer: The Department of Health and Ageing (Health and Ageing) was not consulted as part of the decision regarding the conversion of Medibank Private Limited (MPL) to a for-profit entity. As this matter related to a change in MPL's status and not to the private health insurance regulatory framework it was considered appropriate that this matter be addressed at arm's length from the policy department.