

**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 24 May-3rd June 2010**

**Question: PM28**

**Topic: COAG - Contingency plans**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 60, 25 May**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator PAYNE-And you are indicating to the committee that there is not really a contingency plan for if plan A does not work?**

**Mr Rimmer-The government has not made decisions about the matters that you are referring to.**

**...**

**Senator PAYNE-Other than finding my way into the chamber of the House of Representatives and asking the Prime Minister himself, I am rather restricted to asking through this process, unless the minister would like to assist me about whether there is another plan for a COAG meeting to continue the discussions which seem to not have a contingency plan.**

**Senator Ludwig-I can take that on notice and see what response we can get for you.**

**Answer:**

The Commonwealth is continuing discussions with Western Australia regarding the National Health and Hospitals Network (NHHN) Agreement.

Western Australian officials have been invited to participate in multilateral discussions between the Commonwealth and all states and territories regarding implementation.

At this stage, no Council of Australian Governments meeting is scheduled to consider these matters.