

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: PM48

Topic: Health Reform - Commencement of work

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 97-98, 25 May

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

Number of pages: 2

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-It might be your recollection, and my question to you is: when did you first commence work on the establishment of this commission?

Dr Grimes-I assume-and this is just an assumption-that we would have addressed a matter like that in incoming government briefing or shortly after the election.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-I am interested to understand when and who actually did the running of this.

Dr Grimes-Going to the level of very specific details and dates-

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-I am.

Dr Grimes-Obviously, it is a couple of years ago. Something like that would have to be taken on notice.

...

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-Dr Grimes, could you take on notice: when was work relating to the commission first commenced and who drove it-was it the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet or was it the Department of Health and Ageing? The next question is: how did you interact with the department of health and at what point did you start that interaction with the department of health in relation to the reform commission's work?

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Answer:

The establishment of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) was announced in Australian Labor Party 2007 election commitment documentation.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) provided advice to the incoming government on a range of election commitment issues including the NHHRC. Further advice was provided in the lead up to the Council of Australian Governments meeting in December 2007.

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) was responsible for the establishment of the NHHRC, with work commencing on the formation of the Commission following the formation of the Government in late 2007.

PM&C and DoHA worked together as required on NHHRC matters in the normal course of business and departmental processes.