

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 – Domestic Policy
Topic: Health agreements

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

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Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: All right. There are a whole series of agreements in health: have you done a stocktake of which agreements?take New South Wales as an example?are now currently in place, and which agreements were signed by the previous government and have not survived the change of government in New South Wales? Are there any agreements which fall into that category?

Mr Rimmer: Not to my knowledge. We have not done a stocktake of the kind that you refer to. There are four or five significant COAG agreements, and we are not aware of any particular problems with any one of them in relation to New South Wales.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Can you please take that on notice and tell me which documents were signed, in particular by New South Wales in the time between 13 February and the election?

Mr Rimmer: We can take that on notice, or potentially even give you an answer sooner than that.

Answer:

The following Agreements were signed by New South Wales and the Commonwealth within the specified period (13 February 2011 to 26 March 2011):

- Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan for New South Wales – a schedule under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement;
- Orange City Pipeline Implementation Plan– under the omnibus National Partnership Agreement entitled ‘Water for the Future’;
- Long Stay Older Patients Implementation Plan – a schedule to the National Partnership Agreement on Health Services;
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Food Reforms 2011;
- Heads of Agreement – National Health Reform; and
- The National Health and Hospitals Network – National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services (revised).

No agreements signed by the previous New South Wales Government have not survived the change of government.