

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 Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005

Question: PM8

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: COAG trial evaluation

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Senator Evans asked: I would be interested to know whether you have received the lessons learned document and whether you have received any other assessment. I am also interested in what PM&C has done to provide some accountability for the funds expended on the COAG trials, given that it is five years on.

Answer: The report *Lessons Learned to Date from the COAG trials* has been provided to COAG. The report was compiled by PM&C from agency input.

The trials have not been running for five years. The initial commitment to the trials was made at the April 2002 COAG meeting. The sites for the trials were progressively announced during 2003, with the final site (the ACT) being announced in April 2004.

Accountability for the funds expended on the COAG trials is the responsibility of the relevant funding agencies. DIMIA had overall accountability for the COAG Flexible Funding Pool program and expenditure.