

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2008
Medibank Private Limited**



Topic: Medibank Private Limited

Question reference number: F52a-d

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2008

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Cormann asked:

- a) Has Medibank Private's board formally met with either the Minister for Finance or the Minister for Health and Ageing since December 2007. If yes, how many times for each?
- b) Have the CEO or Chairman experienced any difficulties in accessing either Minister formally or informally since the election?
- c) Since the election, how many face-to-face meetings have the Chairman and CEO had with (1) the PM (2) Lindsay Tanner (3) Nicola Roxon (4) the PMO (5) Finance minister's office (6) Health minister's office?
- d) How does Medibank Private manage its relations with the current Opposition? Does this involve external lobbyists and if so who?

Answer:

- a) The MPL board formally met with the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Minister for Health and Ageing once at the November 2008 board meeting.
- b) MPL engages with Government as our shareholder and as the private health insurance regulator. The Minister for Finance and Deregulation is our shareholder minister who we keep informed of our business activities and financial performance. The Minister for Health and Ageing is responsible for the regulation of the private health insurance industry and we engage with her, her office and her department on these issues. These contacts have been a feature of MPL's engagement with Governments of both political persuasions.
- c) 1) The Chairman and Managing Director (MD) have had no meetings with the PM.
2) The Chairman has met Minister Tanner twice and the MD has met Minister Tanner four times.
3) The Chairman has met Minister Roxon twice and the MD has met Minister Roxon four times.
4) The Chairman and the MD have met with the PMO twice.
5) The Chairman and the MD have not met Minister Tanner's office.
6) The Chairman and the MD have not met Minister Roxon's office.
- d) MPL has a Strategy and Corporate Affairs Division which engages with the Government, the Opposition, department officials (at the state and federal level) and other stakeholders to achieve its strategic objectives. External consultants do not manage our relationships with the Government or the Opposition.