

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM25

Asked By: Senator Payne

Topic: COAG Reform Council - Reports

Type of Question: FPA 68-69, 18 October

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Senator PAYNE-And, again, these go to the COAG Reform Council's National Affordable Housing Agreement: Baseline Performance Report 2008-09, which was released in June, so a couple of months ago now. One of the recommendations that is in that report, recommendation 1, refers to ensuring that administrative data that is provided for each report should relate to the relevant reporting year. I would not have thought that that was revelatory, but I am surprised that, given the complexity of the process that has been pursued through COAG under this government, that we are now at a point in the third year of the process where we actually have to have a recommendation that asks for administrative data to relate to the relevant reporting year. How is that possible? What is the problem in the process that means we need a recommendation of that nature?

Mr English-I will have to add that to the notice list, I suspect. Generally, I think some of these progress reports are in their first year of being produced and so there are naturally some teething issues. But I do not want to dismiss that as a teething issue. We will take it on notice.

Answer:

Administrative data are generally the responsibility of the States and Territories. The Commonwealth understands that the States and Territories are able to provide administrative data for some of the indicators, such as in the areas of public housing, community housing and State-owned and managed Indigenous housing, for the

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relevant reporting year in time to meet COAG Reform Council (CRC) publication deadlines.

However, data for other indicators, such as in the areas of Indigenous community housing and the interim Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), will lag by one year as was the case for the COAG Reform Council's (CRC) Baseline Report because agencies provide data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) by late October each year. The AIHW then compiles and analyses the data to produce reports by April the following year. This is too late for the data to be included by the CRC in its report for that year. Discussions are underway across agencies to explore improvements in the timeliness of this data.