

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: PM28

Asked By: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Topic: National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future

Type of Question: FPA 78, 18 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

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Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-So when the journalist says that the first report, which I think is the blue book-the National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future-was revised over 10 days in February, that process was done not as part of your four meetings over February and March?

...

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-Can I just ask this: was your section responsible in relation to these reports? I mean, given that you have given the lead evidence in the past in relation to health reform from Prime Minister and Cabinet, I am directing my questions to you. Who, in relation to Prime Minister and Cabinet, was driving the writing or the contribution to these reports?

Mr Rimmer-There was a team made up jointly of people from the social policy division and the strategy and delivery division. They worked directly for Ms Cass, who is here with us today, and I was responsible for their work.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-So my questions are appropriately directed to you?

Mr Rimmer-Sure.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-If you could take that on notice insofar as PM&C is concerned. These drafts are in the public arena. I will ask for a copy, but insofar as these documents are in the purview of Prime Minister and Cabinet, I would be most grateful if you can produce copies of those because I

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understand that you cleared them. And so the documents produced to the journalist were after the clearing that was done by PM&C. Is my understanding correct?

Mr Rimmer-That is not exactly what I said. I said that we were consulted about the FOI request that was directed to the health department. The decision-maker for that FOI request was the health department.

Answer:

As indicated by Mr Rimmer at the October Senate Estimates hearing, the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) was the recipient of Mr Parnell's FOI request in relation to *A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future*.

Therefore, DoHA was responsible for providing documents under this FOI request.

Any request for these documents is best directed to DoHA.