

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO
INQUIRY INTO COMPLIANCE AUDITS

6 May 2009 Question: 1

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: CONSULTATION PROCESS

Hansard Page: CA 97

Senator Moore asked: We will move to the question of consultation on the issue, then we can go back to general issues about the confidentiality of patient records.

Mr Learmonth — Would it help if we just put on notice for you what our consultation process was and who we talked to?

Answer:

- A letter on the IMCA initiative was sent to key stakeholders by the then CEO of Medicare Australia in May 2008 following the Budget announcement.
- Two information sheets prepared jointly by the Department and Medicare Australia were provided to stakeholders on 16 October 2008 and 24 February 2009.
- The Minister for Human Services held a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders on 16 December 2008 to discuss the IMCA initiative.
- The Department emailed all stakeholders when the Exposure draft of the Health Insurance Amendment (Compliance) Bill was released on 9 April 2009.
- The Department also emailed all stakeholders when the Privacy Impact Assessment of the IMCA initiative was released on 1 May 2009.
- 14 written submissions were received in response to the information sheets on the IMCA initiative and the exposure draft of the Health Insurance Amendment (Compliance) Bill.
- 21 meetings/teleconferences with 16 key organisations have also been held.
- The IMCA has also been discussed at meetings of Medicare Australia's Stakeholder Consultative Group (SCG) [30 July & 6 November 2008; and 4 March 2009].
- The SCG membership includes the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges; Australian Health Industry Association; Consumers' Health Forum; Australian Association of Practice Managers; Australian Private Hospitals Association; Australian General Practice Network; Rural Doctors Association of Australia; Australian Medical Association; and the Royal Australian College of General Practice.

- Medicare Australia has also communicated directly with providers through *Forum* articles. *Forum* is Medicare Australia's quarterly publication which is sent and made available online to providers.
- In addition, all Medicare Australia call centre staff have been briefed on the IMCA Initiative in order to respond to calls on the provider line.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS:	
DATE	ORGANISATION
20 Jan 2009	Australian Medical Association
28 Nov 2008	Australian Orthopaedic Association
26 Nov 2008 & 12 Mar 2009	Australian Privacy Foundation
23 Dec 2008	AVANT
20 Nov 2008	Consumer Health Forum of Australia
9 Jan 2009	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
21 Nov 2008	Royal Australian College of Physicians (Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine; Australian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine; Paediatrics and Child Health Division)
21 Nov 2008	Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
28 Nov 2008	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
10 Nov 2008	Western Australian Health Consumers Council
14-20 April 2009	Submissions from 3 individuals

CONSULTATION MEETINGS:	
DATE	ORGANISATION
10 Dec 2008	Allied Health Professions Australia
9 July; 10 Sept; 15 Jan 2008 25 Mar 2009	Australian Medical Association
21 Nov 2008	Australian Association of Pathology Practices
16 Feb 2009	Australian General Practice Network
12 Dec 2008 & 13 Mar 2009 ¹	Australian Privacy Foundation ²
20 Nov 2008	Australian Society of Anaesthetists
17 Feb 2009	Consumer Health Forum of Australia
4 Dec 2008	National Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
28 Nov 2008	Optometrists Association of Australia
28 Nov 2008	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists
4 Dec 2008	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
10 Dec 2008	Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
18 Nov & 9 Dec 2008 4 Mar 2009	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
2 Dec 2008	Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
18 Nov 2008	Rural Doctors Association of Australia

¹ Teleconference between APF and Medicare Australia

² Note Medicare Australia also wrote to the APF on 5 March 2009 about MA's privacy training manual and on 24 April 2009 to provide further clarification on details of the IMCA initiative.