

P12/125

Dr Abigail Groves  
Inquiry Manager, Committees  
Legislative Assembly  
Public Accounts Committee  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Dr Groves

**Public Hearing – Question Taken on Notice:-  
Auditor-General's Report - *Mental Health Workforce***

Attached is a response to the question taken on Notice at the above Public Hearing on 18 June 2012.

The response provides the Committee with a progress report on the development and rollout of the State Management Reporting Tool's (SMRT) workforce reporting component, together with milestones for the project.

The person to contact for further information or assistance is Dr Jane Hall, Acting Deputy Director, Strategic Relations and Communications, NSW Ministry of Health, on 9391 9329.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mary Foley  
**Director-General**

31.7.12

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH – RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE AT  
THE 18 JUNE 2012 PUBLIC HEARING - INQUIRY INTO THE FOLLOWUP OF  
THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT – MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE**

**QUESTION:-** *Can you please provide the Committee with an update on the implementation of the human resources side, hence the completion of the SMRT project by the end of July [Chair, p.11].*

**ANSWER:** - The Statewide Management Reporting team, in partnership with Local Health Districts and the Ministry of Health is working to implement a statewide reporting tool to meet the budget and financial reporting requirements of NSW Health. This new reporting tool is designed to specifically meet the needs of cost centre managers, senior management of Local Health Districts and the Ministry of Health to support local and statewide decision making and strengthen the monitoring of financial performance. Importantly, the reporting tool will enable near real time actuals to be provided at all levels of hierarchy and forecast financial information to better equip health managers to plan and manage the delivery of public healthcare services.

The likely benefits include:

- Streamlined budgeting process – will enable the Ministry of Health to allocate budgets using a single system to provide accurate and timely information;
- Consistent reporting – users will have varying levels of security access to the same set of data derived from a single centralised server. Standard report formats will be available statewide;
- Report customisation – will enable Local Health Districts to have the flexibility to create their own reports if necessary;
- Immediate access to financial and workforce information – budget information will be updated via the web as soon as changes occur; and
- Time savings - SMRT reports are updated regularly from a single source which means manual data entry and reconciliation back to the general ledger is no longer necessary.

The *Workforce FTE Project* will provide accurate fortnightly reporting of full time equivalent staff and will be a companion service to the current finance and budget reporting. Importantly, it will be based on the NSW Health payroll system as the single source of information.

The workforce project has three main phases; the collection of data and software development, consultation with Local Health Districts and the Ministry of Health to establish local and statewide reporting requirements and the generation of the agreed reports. Upon completion of these three phases, system testing and staff training will be undertaken prior to NSW Health going 'live' in December 2012. The reports can be customised or segmented to provide detailed reports on all parts of the health workforce, including the mental health workforce.

## PROJECT MILESTONES

| <b>Milestone</b>  | <b>Due for completion</b> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Finalisation of the business rules – this includes FTE calculations, technical responses to deal with different industrial awards, roles and entitlements | Completed                 |
| Workshop to finalise the nature of the reports required by LHDs and the Ministry of Health  | Late August 2012          |
| Software development  | Commenced and ongoing     |
| Commencement of testing   | October 2012              |
| Staff training  | November 2012 – June 2013 |
| NSW Health 'go live'  | December 2012             |