

Ms Emma Wood
Research Officer
Legislative Assembly
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Wood

**Re: Follow up of the Auditor- General's Performance Audits October 2011 –
March 2012**

I refer to your letter dated 28 June 2013 which dealt with the Public Accounts Committee hearing on the Auditor-General's Audit Report No. 219 "*Visiting Medical Officers and Staff Specialists*" which took place on Friday, 21 June 2013.

I wish to provide a response to the following questions that were taken on notice on the day of the hearing:

1. Question 1

CHAIR: You have also indicated that a statewide steering committee is in the process of finalising statewide guidelines for verifying visiting medical officer claims. Have you any indication as to when the guidelines will be finalised?

Response:

An initial guideline will be published before VMoney is rolled out in August 2013. Once VMoney is rolled out and more fully operational, further consultations with Local Health Districts will occur with the aim of developing further guidelines which address their needs.

2. Question 2

CHAIR: I take it that staff will be provided with training and instruction to assist them in adhering to the guidelines when they are in place. Can you indicate how that might occur? Would you like to take that question on notice also?

Response:

Chief Executives of Local Health Districts and their management teams will be responsible for assessing the need for, and providing, any necessary training and instruction to internal audit staff on implementing the guidelines published by the Ministry of Health. Local Health District staff internal audit staff are already skilled and experienced in undertaking audits.

In addition, the following additional question was set out in your letter.

In relation to providing a more explicit basis for VMO entitlements to treat private patients in public hospitals, can you update the Committee on your discussions with the Australian Medical Association about amendments to VMO model contracts?

Response:

The Australian Medical Association has advised that it does not agree at this point in time that such a variation is required. A meeting to discuss this matter further is scheduled for the first week in August.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Crawshaw
Deputy Director General
Governance, Workforce and Corporate

23.7.13