

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-273

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: Diabetes - Diabetes Screening

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) Are there any plans for further coordinated care trials for diabetes patients?
- b) Has there been a review of the program and, if so, is it publicly available?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government is currently implementing a coordinated care pilot for diabetes called the Diabetes Care Project. The Australian Government is providing \$31.4 million and the Victorian Government is contributing \$2 million for the Project – bringing total funding for the project to \$33.4 million over three years.

The pilot will compare three groups, evaluating the contribution of the different models of care provided to the groups to delivering better quality health outcomes, enabling care to be provided in more flexible ways, improving patient and practitioner experiences and proving economic sustainability and national scalability. The three groups will receive care as follows:

- Control Group: patients will continue to receive care as usual;
- Intervention Group 1: patients and practitioners will receive access to an IT tool which will provide a common means of communication amongst health professionals and provide a central location for patients to house information such as appointment dates and referrals, and an education and training program designed to improve the understanding of diabetes management from a patient and practitioner perspective; and
- Intervention Group 2: patients and practitioners will receive access to the IT tool, the education and training program, as well as a flexible funding model and a care facilitator who will provide support to GPs and allied health professionals to reduce their administrative burden and improve communication across the care team.

To date, the pilot has reached the target for practice enrolment in the pilot of 150 practices across three states – Queensland, South Australia and Victoria and expects to enrol up to 10,000 patients. It is anticipated that the outcomes of the Project's will be used to inform policies and programs for diabetes specifically and for chronic disease management more broadly, and in turn may inform the roll out of further coordinated care activities.

- b) The evaluation of this pilot will commence in February 2014 and the results provided to the Department of Health and Ageing in mid-2014.
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