

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: E12-311

OUTCOME: 5. Primary Care

Topic: Townsville GP Super Clinic

Type of Questions: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Can the Department confirm the contents of the Medical Observer Article on the 26th April 2012 that states the Townsville GP Super Clinic is not able to provide any allied healthcare services until after a period of council scrutiny?
- b) What services will the Townsville GP Super Clinic be providing when it initially opens?
- c) For what period of time will the Townsville GP Super Clinic be limited to only providing GP and Pharmacy services at the clinic?
- d) Is this a breach of the Townsville GP Super Clinic funding agreement by not providing allied healthcare at the clinic?
- e) Is there any guarantee that the Council will EVER allow additional allied health services to be provided at the Townsville GP Super Clinic?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing is unaware of any period of Council scrutiny that will delay allied health services from being offered on opening of the Townsville GP Super Clinic. In July 2010 the Townsville GP Super Clinic began providing early services, including allied health services, from a GP practice in Townsville. The Department understands these services will transfer to the new Clinic once it commences operations and will then be expanded over time to include physiotherapy, mental health counselling, psychology, dietetics, pharmacy, pathology and radiology services, in line with the multidisciplinary, team based approach expected of GP Super Clinics.
- b) The detail of services provided will be made available on the Department's website once the Townsville GP Super Clinic has been operational for a period of four months.

- c) The Department is unaware of any such restriction.
- d) Not Applicable.
- e) The Department is unaware of any Council restriction that will prevent the delivery of allied health services.