

**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: E12-315**

**OUTCOME 5: Primary Care**

**Topic:** GP Super Clinics Evaluation

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of Pages:** 3

**Senator:** Senator Fierravanti-Wells

**Question:**

- a) What was the outcome of the Evaluation of the GP Super Clinics Program 2007-2009 run by Consan Pty Ltd at a cost of \$301,873?
- b) Can the Department release the evaluation report to the Committee?
  - i. If not, why not?
    - Was this \$301,873 taken from the GP Super Clinics program funding?
    - If not, where did this money come from?
    - What aspects of the GP Super Clinics Program 2007-2009 did Consan Pty Ltd evaluate?
    - Did this evaluation include the location of the clinics?  
If not, why not?

The Minister has again been quoted releasing the number of presentations at individual GP Super Clinic locations (Grafton GP Super Clinic), despite the Department claiming repeatedly at Estimates that these figures are commercial in confidence?

- c) Why is the Minister able to release these numbers individually, but the Department refuses?
- d) Can the Department request authorisation from each GP Super Clinic to release the number of presentations on a 2-monthly basis since each of the GP Super Clinics opened?  
If not, why not?

Regarding the extra \$3.3 million for the Ballan GP Super Clinic announced during the Federal Budget this year:

- e) What is the purpose of the additional funding?
  - Who made the initial contact regarding the extra funding?

- f) Did Ballan contact the Department requesting additional funding?
- g) Did the Department recommend that further funding be allocated to Ballan?
- h) Are there any GP Super Clinics that are now able to have a Pharmacy located within their clinic, that would have otherwise had an application for a pharmacy rejected before the changes to the Pharmacy Location Rules were announced by the Minister in October 2011?
- i) Have any GP Super Clinics applied for a pharmacy within their practice since the changes to the Pharmacy Location Rules were introduced?
- j) Which GP Super Clinics are these?

**Answer:**

a) and b)

This report is publicly available at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pacd-gpsuperclinics-latestnews>

c) and d)

From time to time, data from individual Clinics may be provided publicly based on sources such as the operator of a GP Super Clinic.

As advised previously, the Department of Health and Ageing provides presentation data at an aggregated level only. Presentation data for individual clinics are not made publicly available by the Department.

That is because presentation data are not comparable between Clinics (depending on when the clinics commenced services, the size of the community, and the number of service providers engaged etc).

e) Ballan District Health Care Services applied for funding of \$3.3 million for the Ballan Primary Health Care Centre extension under the Health and Hospitals Fund 2011 Regional Priority Round (Round 4). The project will enable an expansion of general medical, preventive health and chronic care services currently being provided through the Ballan Centre for Community Health (GP Super Clinic).

f) No.

g) The Department does not make recommendations on applications to be funded. All applications were assessed by the independent Health and Hospitals Fund Advisory Board which provided a list of 115 applications that had met the evaluation criteria and found eligible (of which Ballan was one). From that list of eligible applications provided by the Board, 76 projects were allocated funding in the 2012-13 Budget which included the Ballan project.

h) to j)

Under the Pharmacy Location Rules (the Rules), there is no Rule specific to GP Super Clinics, however, an applicant may apply for approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits in a large medical centre. Only pharmacists registered with the national pharmacy board can apply for approval to supply PBS medicines.

Prior to the amended Rules commencing from 18 October 2011, the Large Medical Centre Rule required that only an existing pharmacy could relocate into a large medical centre. Now a new pharmacy can be approved in a large medical centre.

Since the introduction of the amended Rules, 12 new pharmacies have been recommended for approval in a large medical centre.