

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: E12-336

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: Local Lead Clinicians Group

Type of Question: Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) According to the National Health Reform Progress and Delivery document released in September 2011, arrangements for Local Lead Clinicians Groups commenced in July last year. What arrangements had been put in place?
- b) The Progress and Delivery document also states that the first Local Groups would commence in January to March this year. How many have commenced?
- c) How much has been spent on establishing Local Lead Clinician Groups to date?
- d) Why are they now not being established, what has changed?
- e) When was the decision made not to proceed with them?
- f) How will the role of the National Collaborative Clinicians Network differ from the National Lead Clinicians Group?
- g) When will the National Collaborative Clinicians Network be established?
- h) What are the specific details on how the Network will operate: How will appointments be made to the Network, will the Federal Minister be responsible for it, will there be a support staff, how much will people be paid?

Answer:

- a) No formal arrangements were finalised for Local Lead Clinicians Groups (LCGs).
- b) No Local LCGs have commenced operations.
- c) No administered funds have been expended to establish Local LCGs.

Ipsos- Eureka Social Research Institute was engaged in 2011 to undertake market research and stakeholder consultations to inform the design of both the National and Local LCGs. Departmental funds of \$309,723 (GST inclusive) were expended under the contract. Findings of the consultation process continue to be considered in the development of the streamlined LCG initiative.

- d) It was a Government decision not to proceed with implementation of Local LCGs.
- e) The Government considered the decision as part of the Federal Budget process.
- f) The National LCG advises the Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on nationally relevant priorities and strategies to improve patient care across the different sectors in the health care system, promote evidence-based clinical practice and assist with the prioritisation and implementation of clinical standards and guidelines.

The National LCG is developing a National Collaborative Clinicians Network (NCCN) to promote clinical leadership and multidisciplinary engagement by sharing local innovative models of integrated care through state and national forums.

- g) The first state NCCN forums are expected to occur by the end of 2012 and the first national NCCN forum is expected to occur by the end of 2012-13.
- h) The NCCN will bring together clinicians from a broad range of disciplines and health sectors to promote clinical leadership and multidisciplinary engagement. This will be achieved through state and national forums. The Network will not be an entity with staff.

The National LCG, including the NCCN, forms part of the Minister for Health's responsibilities under the health portfolio.