

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: E12-091

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: Older Australians and Medicare Locals

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question:

How will Medicare Locals prioritise better health care for older people?

Answer:

Medicare Locals Strategic Objective 3 - *Identification of the health needs of populations within local areas and the development of locally focussed and responsive services* - requires Medicare Locals to undertake health needs assessment and planning work.

From 1 July 2012, all Medicare Locals will receive flexible funding through the *Regionally Tailored Primary Health Care Initiatives through Medicare Locals Fund* (the Medicare Locals Fund). Medicare Locals will use this flexible funding to undertake activities to address service gaps and other issues identified in their health needs assessment. This may include activities to improve health care for older people, where this has been identified as a priority for the catchment area.