



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Dr Ian Holland
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Dr Holland

**Request for Amendment to Evidence Provided at Budget Estimates Hearing,
Date 31 May 2012: Outcome: 5. Primary Care**

I am writing to correct a statement that I made at the Budget Estimates Hearing of the Senate Community Affairs Committee on 31 May 2012.

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked the following question:

“So this is extra money that is going to go to them.” (in regard to Medicare Locals)

My response was as follows:

“Yes. As time has moved on and the role of Medicare Locals has evolved, we have identified that these funds were not necessary and that it is not a matter for individual GP superclinics to do it; rather, it is the Medicare Local looking at integration more broadly.”

It has been brought to my notice that the evidence that I provided was inaccurate. However, in light of subsequent discussions the response should now be amended as follows (changes are underlined):

“No. The funds were returned to consolidated revenue.” As time has moved on and the role of Medicare locals has evolved, we have identified that these additional GP Super Clinic funds were not necessary and that it is not a matter for individual GP superclinics to do it; rather, it is the Medicare local looking at integration more broadly from within their core funding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Butt', written over a white background.

David Butt
Deputy Secretary
2 July 2012