

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 21 November 2013

Question: E13-088

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Medicare Locals

Type of Question: Hansard Page 57, 20 November 2013

Senator: Moore

Question:

It may be useful to see the innovative process – ‘innovative’ is always a difficult word in the public sector – of how Medicare Locals responded to that challenge. It would be very useful to get that focusing on why there was a link with Medicare Locals and how they responded.

Answer:

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) established the *Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in Medicare Locals Program* (the Program) in 2012-13 to drive innovation in prevention and health promotion amongst Medicare Locals with a specific requirement to target social disadvantage and high need communities. This Program directly responds to both ANPHA’s and Medicare Locals’ strategic objectives to generate partnerships to drive health improvements through locally responsive programs and services.

The Program’s innovative framework is a combination of three key elements: (1) delivery of interventions that are practical but which must be integrated across multiple partners/services (ie. make it as seamless and as easy as possible to receive the prevention service from the consumer/patient’s perspective); (2) deliver the intervention as part of an evidence creation process – ie. must contribute to the task of assessing what are the most effective primary health care approaches to prevention; and (3) embed the intervention in a culture of rigorous evaluation through: a) collaborating in the independent academic evaluations of the intervention and b) sharing of learning as it emerges amongst the *Prevention Health Matters Network* (established by the Medicare Locals).