

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-122

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: MEDICARE LOCALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you clarify the extent to which Medicare Locals will purchase services as compared to the extent they will be involved in service delivery?

Answer:

Medicare Locals will be primary health care organisations, established to coordinate primary health care delivery to address local health care needs and service gaps. They are not primarily service delivery organisations.

However, to ensure patients can access the services they need, Medicare Locals may need to directly deliver services in some circumstances where there is market failure.