

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-137

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: EHEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

There are currently two NBN Telehealth pilot occurring in Townsville (QLD) and New England & Illawarra Shoalhaven (NSW)

- a) What numbers of diabetics must the Townsville Study recruit to have sufficient “power” to achieve significant findings?
- b) What specifically will the study evaluate – either the impact of the NBN or of telehealth?
- c) Can the Department cite any other studies worldwide where high speed broadband and telehealth are being evaluated against a control which have neither?
- d) Can DoHA confirm that it is funding half of the two projects costs, and that NBN Co is funding the other half?
- e) How did the Department identify the need for such a trial project?
- f) Did the Department propose the trials?
- g) How did the Department identify the need for such a trial project?
- h) Who within the Department first proposed such a trial, which section approved it and on what basis/justification?
- i) If the Department did not propose the trials?
- j) Who did?
- k) On what basis did the Department view the proposal as worthy of DoHA funding?

Answer:

a) to k)

The two National Broadband Network (NBN) Enabled Telehealth Trials in Townsville (QLD) and New England and Illawarra Shoalhaven (NSW) are the responsibility of the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE).