

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-255

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: MEDICARE LOCALS

Hansard Page: CA 35

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Can you explain the funding formula used to determine the core funding to Medicare Locals based on the characteristics of each Medicare Local community in details?

Answer:

To accommodate for relative differences in the characteristics of each Medicare Local catchment and population, funding has been allocated on a weighted population approach that takes into account:

- Health inequities for people living in rural and remote areas;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations;
- Overseas born with low English speaking proficiency;
- Socio-economic status; and
- Population age profiles.