

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000294

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Health Networks

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 59, 10 February 2016

**Senator:** Gallagher, Katy

**Question:**

Mr Cormack: They formed alliances with other organisations, but that is right. The majority of the 31 had been previously associated with the former Medicare Locals.

Senator GALLAGHER: Is that true for all of them, all 31?

Mr Cormack: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you tell me what proportion of the 31 are rebadged Medicare Locals?

Mr Cormack: I will need to just get the figure. I think it was 26 or 27, but I will just need to confirm that.

**Answer:**

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) were established on 1 July 2015 with the clear objectives to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and to improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

Although some PHNs have association with former Medicare Locals, all PHNs are new entities. All PHNs have been established as new planning, integrating and commissioning organisations that provide the infrastructure to reorient and reform the primary health care system through a regional focus.

All PHN Boards are supported by new governance structures including GP-led Clinical Councils, to develop local strategies to improve the operation of the health care system in the PHN catchment area, and Community Advisory Committees who will advise on patient experiences and expectations.