

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000386

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Alcohol and other Drugs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Can you confirm that all 31 PHNs have now commenced delivery of drug and alcohol treatment services in line with their agreed work plans? If not, can you advise which PHNs have not commenced these services and can you advise the reasons for the delay?

Answer:

As at 21 April 2017, 28 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) have commenced services with a total of 135 projects on the ground.

A further 3 PHNs are finalising commissioning processes and expect to have services commence on the ground in their region by 1 May 2017.

Those PHNs which have not yet commissioned services have:

- had difficulties recruiting an appropriately qualified drug and alcohol workforce, or
- needed additional time to undertake codesign commissioning processes to inform service delivery models, or
- had extended contract negotiation processes with particular drug and alcohol service providers.

It is important that the preference for the quick commencement of service delivery is tempered by the need to ensure the right mix of evidence-based services is provided to the community by an appropriately qualified workforce.