

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-019

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Care

Topic: Minor Trauma Clinics

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Boyce

Question:

It has come to my attention that the team at Metro North Brisbane are trialling something they have called "Smart Clinics" but which I believe within the Department are known as "Minor Trauma Clinics" as a means of diverting minor matters from our overcrowded hospital emergency departments.

- a) How many of these trials are being conducted across Australia and where are they?
- b) What is their rationale?
- c) Where is the funding for this coming from and how much is it going to cost?
- d) How long is the trial, how will its success be measured and what would be the criteria would need to be satisfied for the trials to become a program? What are for example its KPIs?
- e) What savings are expected?

Answer:

- a) Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local is conducting the trials within its own service catchment area. The trials are being conducted at the following locations:
 - SmartClinics, Shop 212, Westfield Chermside, Corner of Gympie Road and Hamilton Road, Chermside, Queensland, 4032; and
 - The Family Practice Kallangur, 1380 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Queensland 4503.

These practices work in conjunction with other medical services, such as radiology services and pharmacies, which are within close proximity of the two practices.

- b) The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local identified the 'lack of access' as a priority gap in its plan for After Hours. In order to address this gap, the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local undertook to support pilot services to alter their service model to include a Minor Trauma Centre.

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local also undertook to work with Emergency Departments, the Queensland Ambulance Service and GPs to define a triaging/governance agreement to enable these Minor Trauma Centres to be used as an alternative access for ambulance patients and ensure these services have appropriate diagnostic and management ability by providing support to ancillary services such as x-ray, pharmacy and pathology as required.

- c) The funding for this trial is being provided by the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local under its Deed for Funding. The Medicare Local has allocated the following funds for the trial:
- 2012-13 funding: \$275,000.00 (incl. GST) per centre; and
 - 2013-14 funding: \$220,000.00 (incl. GST) per centre.
- d) Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local's plan for the pilot is to gather at least one calendar years' worth of data and test the sustainability of the model in the last half of 2013-14. Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local does not expect that, as a pilot, funding for Minor Trauma Centres would continue beyond 2013-14 as the services would be expected to achieve self-sustainability.
- e) This is a pilot initiated by the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local to address a lack of access, which it identified as a priority gap. Savings have yet to be determined.