

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

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

**Question: E13-045**

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Care

**Topic:** Queensland Super Clinics (Redcliffe)

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Boyce

**Question:**

At the last Estimates in February this year in response to a WQON the Department said "This particular clinic is built on Queensland government land and as such, subject to Queensland government approvals. The Department of Health and Ageing is working with Queensland Health and metro North Hospital and Health Service to finalise the arrangements and get services up and running as soon as possible."

- a) The necessary Qld building approvals were as you know completed eons ago and my advice is there were no hold-ups in that process- so the question still remains why isn't open for business?
- b) It's been alleged that the delays are all the fault of the Qld government is that correct?
- c) How is it possible to claim that when this is a Federal government project, largely funded by the Commonwealth and managed by the Commonwealth?
- d) When will it be open for business, before the next election? Anytime this year?

**Answer:**

- a) The delays to the completion of the building and commencement of services from the Redcliffe GP Super Clinic arose largely from the requirement for the original funding recipient, the Redcliffe Hospital Foundation, having to meet the requirements of Queensland Government legislation, in particular, the *Hospital Foundations Act 1982* (QLD) and the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangement Act 1982* (QLD). As a statutory body of the Queensland Government, the Foundation needed the consent of the responsible Minister to obtain finance to complete the project, appoint a Third Party Operator and conclude any leasing arrangements with that Operator.

b) and c)

The reorganisation of Queensland Health in 2012 and creation of area health services such as Metro North Hospital and Health Services (Metro North) also caused delays. For example, enabling legislation did not immediately entitle Metro North to own assets which resulted in temporary leasing arrangements being put in place. Formal legal arrangements for the transfer of the Clinic to Metro North came into effect on 22 May 2013.

- d) Metro North anticipates that the first stage of service delivery should commence in early December 2013 after fit out of the ground floor and identification of an operator to provide GP Services. The University of Queensland commenced activities in its tenancy on level 2 after fit out was completed in April 2013. A subsequent fit out will enable a staged integration of services in the remainder of the building.