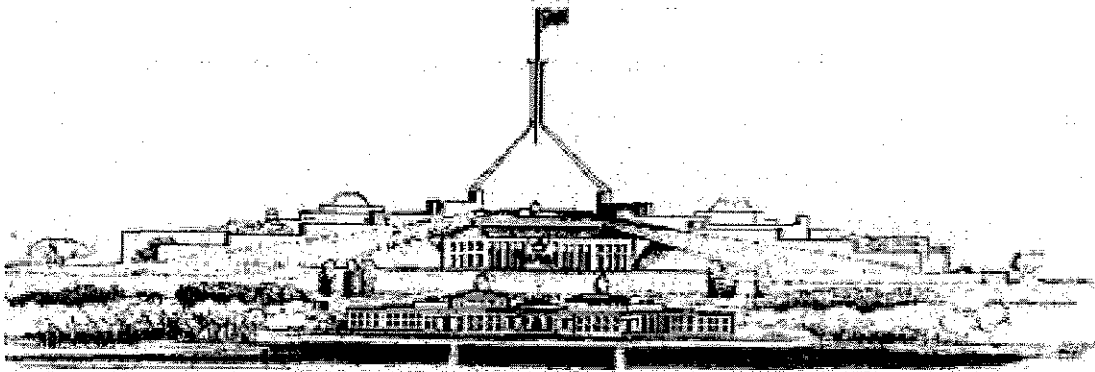




COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS IN WRITING

Superclinics

QUESTION

13

Thursday, 3 March 2011

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTION

Date Thursday, 3 March 2011
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Questioner Southcott, Dr Andrew, MP
Speaker

Source House
Proof No
Responder Roxon, Nicola, MP
Question No. 13

Superclinics

Dr Southcott (Boothby) asked the Minister for Health and Ageing, in writing, on 30 September 2010:

In respect of the first 36 sites for GP Super Clinics, for each Clinic:

- (1) Where is the site, and in what electorate does it reside.
- (2) Is it in an area (a) of high growth, (b) with poor access to GP services, or (c) with low socio-economic status.
- (3) What is the Government's financial contribution to its establishment.
- (4) On what date (a) was it announced, (b) did it become operational, (c) did it become fully operational, and (d) were first patients seen.
- (5) What is the total number of (a) patient visits, and (b) medical and allied health professionals providing services.
- (6) What services are offered.
- (7) What number of GP services are (a) billed, and (b) bulk billed to Medicare.
- (8) What number of other Medicare services is available, by type.
- (9) What number of existing GPs and allied health practices currently service this area, and what impact has the Clinic had on them.

Ms Roxon (Gellibrand—Minister for Health and Ageing)—The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

- (1) The location of the 36 GP Super Clinics, including information on their electorate is referred to in the table attached.
- (2) Note that the 36 sites were selected against the following principles, rather than the three criteria identified in this question:
 - Poor access to health services;
 - Poor health infrastructure;
 - Where a GP Super Clinic could help take pressure off emergency departments;
 - High levels of chronic disease and/or populations with high needs, such as large numbers of children or the elderly; and
 - Areas currently experiencing, or anticipated to experience, rapid population growth.

Please refer to the table attached for responses against each site, as per the criteria listed above.

Data obtained from:

<http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/locator> (at time of location announcement);

<http://www.publichealth.gov.au>; and

The socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA) score as per the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census data.

(3) Please refer to the table attached.

(4) (a) The original 31 locations to receive a GP Super Clinic were announced (from late August to late November 2007) as 2007 election commitments. The Government announced a further five locations in late 2009 (Cockburn WA, Gunnedah NSW, Portland, Wodonga and South Morang VIC).

Dates for the announcement of Funding Agreements to establish the individual clinics are identified in the table below.

(b) (c) In a number of instances (e.g. Modbury and Noarlunga, SA and Ipswich and Brisbane Southside, QLD), the capital works projects for a GP Super Clinic involves separate stages/phases of construction. Upon completion of a stage/phase of construction, it is expected that a GP Super Clinic will commence service delivery and therefore become operational. Where a GP Super Clinic has a staged or phased implementation, all stages/phases are required to be completed before the project is deemed to have achieved 'Practical Completion' under the terms of the Funding Agreement. Refer to the table attached for further details.

Some funding recipients have decided to offer services prior to the commencement of construction of their GP Super Clinic or while construction is underway. These clinics are deemed to be delivering 'early services', rather than being deemed 'operational', as the construction project has not been completed. Early services are being delivered at ten sites: Blue Mountains, North Central Coast, Riverina (NSW); Bendigo and Wodonga (VIC); Townsville, Cairns and Gladstone (QLD); and Modbury and Noarlunga (SA).

(d) The Department does not collect this information.

(5) (a) Information regarding patient service numbers is confidential under the secrecy provisions (Section 130) of the Health Insurance Act 1973, as it would provide activity and billing information for individual medical practices. As the Australian Government does not own or operate GP Super Clinics, recruitment and engagement of service providers is the responsibility of the owner/operator of each clinic. (b) The number of GPs and nurses are indicated in the answers to Question 6 below. The Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) does not keep data on the number of allied health professionals, rather the range of allied services provided that address the needs of the local communication are monitored, also outlined in Question 6 below.

(6) The eight operational GP Super Clinics have advised that they offer the following services:

Ballan (VIC)

The clinic offers services by (3.5) General Practitioners (GPs), (1.4) practice nurses, a dentist, physiotherapist, dietician, podiatrist, occupational therapist, psychologist and a pathologist. Other services include echo cardiograms, audiology, district nursing, community health nursing, women's clinics, chronic disease management, drug and alcohol support services, welfare support services and transport connection, and a 24 hour emergency care by the GPs but provided in the Bush Nursing Hospital.

Devonport (TAS)

The clinic provides access to a wide range of multidisciplinary, integrated primary care services, provided by (11.8) GPs, (5) practice nurses and allied health professionals, including: audiologist, osteopath, psychiatrist, occupational physicians, rheumatologist, orthopaedic surgeon and consultant physician.

Geelong (VIC)

The clinic is offering services by (7) GPs, (5) practice nurses, mental health nurse, physiologist, dietician and podiatrist. Services offered include family planning including antenatal shared care, diabetes and respiratory education, physiotherapist exercise including walking groups and resistance and agility groups.

Ipswich (QLD)

The clinic is offering services by (2) GPs, (2) practice nurses and services provided include an urgent care clinic, standard GP services, and a chronic and complex skin service.

Palmerston (NT)

The clinic is offering services by: (3.5) GPs; (1) practice nurse; dietetics; physiotherapy; psychology and outpatient services from Royal Darwin Hospital for antenatal and diabetes clinics using an Endocrinologist and a diabetes educator. The clinic offers family appointments, drop-in appointments and opportunities for longer consultations for people with complex and chronic conditions. An Urgent Care After Hours Service is available.

Port Stephens (NSW)

The clinic provides access to a broad range of services and specific in-house and outreach aged care services through its (4) GPs (including 2 female), (2) practice nurses; and a range of allied health practitioners including a diabetes educator, psychologist, podiatrist, pharmacists (medication review), visiting medical specialist (geriatrician) and physiotherapist. There is also a dedicated aged care service available every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Southern Lake Macquarie (NSW)

The clinic offers a range of services by (4) FTE GPs and (2) part-time GPs, (5) part time Nurses and a range of allied health practitioners including podiatrists, a Dietitian, a Social Worker, a Psychologist, and an Occupational Therapist. Services include: hydrotherapy, rehabilitation services, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pathology, psychology, dietetics, speech therapy, podiatry, visiting medical specialists (cardiology, urology and gynaecology), a number of clinics and support groups and targeted services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Strathpine (QLD)

The clinic offers services by (8) GPs, (9) nurses (practice, mental health and Indigenous health), and allied health professionals including a dietician/diabetes educator, physiotherapist, exercise physiologist, chiropractor, psychologist and podiatrist. X-ray, ultrasound and audiology services are also available.

(7) This information is confidential under the secrecy provisions (Section 130) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, as it would provide activity and billing information for individual medical practices.

(8) This information is confidential under the secrecy provisions (Section 130) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, as it would provide activity and billing information for individual medical practices.

(9) Release of small area data is potentially problematic as there may be issues with privacy and confidentiality under the secrecy provisions (Section 130) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

(Q1)Location	(Q1)Electorate	(Q2)Area	(Q3)Government's Financial Contribution (GST exclusive)	Proposed (Q4) (a) announced (b) operational
NSW				
Blue Mountains	Macquarie	Poor access to GP services	Up to \$5.0 million	a 23/1/09 b Site works underway.
Grafton	Page	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.0 million	a 25/6/09 b Commenced site works. Construction commencement anticipated mid-February 2011.
Gunnedah	New England	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$4.3 million	a 4/3/10 b Funding recipient undertaking construction tender.
North Central Coast	Dobell	High growth area Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$2.5 million	a 15/4/09 b Construction contractor anticipated to be selected mid- February 2011.
Port Stephens	Paterson	Poor access to GP services High growth area Low socio-economic status	\$2.5 million	a 3/2/09 b 17/5/10

(Q1)Location	(Q1)Electorate	(Q2)Area	(Q3)Government's Financial Contribution (GST exclusive)	Proposed (Q4) (a) announced (b) operational
Queanbeyan	Eden Monaro	High growth area Poor access to GP services	Up to \$5.0 million	a.26/6/09 b Under construction.
Riverina	Riverina	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$1.0 million	a.3/8/09 b Under construction.
Shellharbour	Throsby	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$2.5 million	a 3/2/09 b Under construction.
Southern Lake Macquarie	Charlton	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$2.5 million	a 29/1/09 b 15/12/10
VIC				
Ballan	Ballarat	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	\$1.0 million	a 30/6/08 b 14/9/09
Bendigo	Bendigo	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.0 million	a 30/6/08 b Under construction.
Berwick	La Trobe	High growth area	Up to \$2.5 million	a 6/11/09 b Under construction.
Geelong	Corangamite Corio	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$7.0 million	a 25/2/09 b 30/8/10
Portland	Wannon	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$4.9 million	a 19/5/10 b Commenced site works.
South Morang	Scullin	High growth area Poor access to GP services	Up to \$3.7 million	a 6/5/10 b Finalising lodgement of subdivision application.
Wallan	McEwan	High growth area	Up to \$3.5 million	a TBA b Council planning process commenced with public input phase.
Wodonga	Indi	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$6.65 million	a 23/2/10 b Demolition of existing building commenced.
QLD				
Brisbane Southside (hub and spoke model)	Moreton (Annerley hub) Rankin (Logan hub)	High growth area Low socio-economic status (one location)	Up to \$7.5 million	a 5/11/09 b Opened 14 February 2011.
Bundaberg	Hinkler	High growth area Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.0 million	a 8/4/10 b Local builder appointed. Construction to start late February 2011.
Cairns	Leichardt Kennedy	High growth area Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.0 million	a 20/5/09 b QLD National Resources approval anticipated late Feb/ early March 2011.
Gladstone	Flynn	High growth area	Up to \$5 million	a 12/2/10 b Development approval with Council.
Ipswich	Blair	High growth area Low socio-economic status	Up to \$2.5 million	a 26/6/09 b Stage 1:18/10/10 Commencement of construction for Stage 2 anticipated late Feb 2011.
Mt Isa	Kennedy	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.0 million	a 25/6/09 b Contract negotiations commencing.
Redcliffe	Petric	Poor access to GP services High growth area Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.0 million	a 27/1/09 b Under construction
Strathpine	Dickson	High growth area	\$2.5 million	a 16/4/09 b 11/1/10
Townsville	Herbert	High growth area	Up to \$5.0 million	a 21/5/09 b Plans with Council.
SA				

(Q1)Location	(Q1)Electorate	(Q2)Area	(Q3)Government's Financial Contribution (GST exclusive)	Proposed (Q4) (a) announced (b) operational
Modbury	Makin	Poor access to GP services Identified as a site where a GP Super clinic would help take pressure off the local emergency department.	Up to \$12.5 million	a 29/7/09 b Stage 1 completed and offering services from 22 November 2010. Stage 2 under construction.
Noarlunga	Kingston	High growth area Low socio-economic status	Up to \$12.5 million	a 29/7/09 b Stage 1 completed and offering services from 6 December 2010. Stage 2 under construction.
Playford North	Wakefield	High growth area Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$7.5 million	a 29/7/09 b Under construction.
TAS				
Burnie	Braddon	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$2.5 million	a 17/4/09 b Construction to be finalised end Feb/early March 2011.
Clarence (Hobart Eastern Shores Franklin site A)		Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$5.5 million	a 16/1/09 b Funding recipient selecting construction contractor.
Devonport	Braddon	Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	\$5.0 million	a 9/4/09 b 22/7/10
Sorell (Hobart Eastern Shores Lyons site B)		Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$2.5 million	a 21/4/09 b Awaiting lease for land from Council.
WA				
Cockburn	Fremantle	High growth area Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	Up to \$6.65 million	a 19/5/10 b Site identified, planning well advanced.
Midland	Hasluck	High growth area Poor access to GP services	Up to \$5.0 million	a 31/7/09 b Builder appointed.
Wanneroo	Cowan	High growth area Poor access to GP services	Up to \$5.0 million	a 21/4/10 b Clinic site identified, planning underway.
NT				
Palmerston	Solomon	High growth area Poor access to GP services Low socio-economic status	\$10.0 million	a 22/4/09 b 4/10/10

Data obtained from: <http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/Publishing.nsf/Content/locator> (at time of location announcement); <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>; and The socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA) score as per the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census data;