

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000644

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** After Hours

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

**Senator:** Brown, Carol

**Question:**

With a deputising service, I just want to clarify the rules that are going to be around that service. I am concerned whether people will be passed off from a Victorian GP to a New South Wales GP. I know you answered earlier that it would probably be in the same region, but what regulations do you have in place? Does it guarantee it under the regulations?

**Answer:**

As part of the eligibility requirements outlined in the Practice Incentives Programme (PIP) after hours incentive guidelines, practices may choose to have formal arrangements with a third party, including Medical Deputising Services, to ensure that practice patients have access to care.

Formal arrangements must be outlined in a formal document that is agreed to and signed by both parties. This documentation must be produced for auditing purposes for the Department of Human Services if required.

There will be no further regulations on how a general practice engages a third party service provider such as a Medical Deputising Service.