

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000686

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Royal Flying Doctor Service Dental Program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Duniam, Jonathon

Question:

- a) Has the Royal Flying Doctor Service been given all the conditions of the program?
- b) How are health promotion and transport costs of patients are to be funded?
- c) On the basis that dental treatment for adults is limited to people holding health care cards, how will a community health approach to dental care be maintained or provided for those without health care cards, particularly in indigenous communities?

Answer:

Yes. The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) was contracted in April 2017 to extend its existing dental outreach services. The RFDS has received a copy of the *Additional Dental Services Grant Program Guidelines 2017* that provide the arrangements for the administration of the program.

The RFDS is funded \$11 million over two years to provide dental treatment and dental health promotion services on a fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out basis into rural and remote locations to minimise travel distances for patients and their carers.

The program is not limited to those with health care cards. The provision of the outreach dental services is prioritised to locations where there are no other private or public dental services and classified under the Modified Monash Model classification system as MM5-7 at no cost to the patient.