

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001009

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Prevention/Healthy Heart Initiative - \$5 million to RACGP

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Under the only new prevention program – the healthy heart initiative in the budget - \$5m is listed for GPs to ‘to support Australians to achieve a healthy lifestyle through increased physical activity and better nutrition.’

- a) What is this money for?
- b) What will the RACGP be required to do for this money?
- c) How will it be evaluated?
- d) How will the RACGP distribute materials to GPs?
- e) Who was consulted on this measure?
- f) Was it competitive tender?

Answer:

a) What is this money for?

Funding will be provided to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) for the \$5 million General Practitioners (GPs) Healthy Heart Partnership to develop education and training material for GPs to support Australians to achieve a healthy lifestyle through increased physical activity and better nutrition.

b) What will the RACGP be required to do for this money?

The RACGP will manage the program and use part of its funding to assist GPs with the administration and monitoring required for their patients. The RACGP will be responsible for the development of education and training materials for GPs and their patients. RACGP may engage subcontractors to develop elements. The materials may include, but are not limited to:

- Information for GPs about local lifestyle modification activities available for their patients, where patients can obtain further information on lifestyle factors relevant to weight loss and other health and behavioural change professionals.
- Materials to support GPs to record and report initial weights and track weight progress against goals set by the GP.
- Mobile phone applications for patients, which will encourage lifestyle modification activities and include self-reporting facility, according to which patients self-report their weight, which is then sent to their GP.

The materials are directed at supporting treatment by GPs of patients who are overweight, obese or at risk of, or managing, diabetes mellitus.

c) How will it be evaluated?

The approach to evaluate will be determined in consultation with the RACGP.

d) How will the RACGP distribute materials to GPs?

Discussions with the RACGP are still occurring and as such some of details of this measure are yet to be finalised.

e) Who was consulted on this measure?

This is a 2017 Federal Budget measure (Health Portfolio) therefore consultation did not occur during the policy development process.

f) Was it competitive tender?

No. The direct source arrangement is considered appropriate based on RACGP being the peak body organisation for Australian GPs. Given the RACGP have the appropriate capability, the specific expertise required and the infrastructure already established they are considered to be the most appropriate organisation to deliver this project.