

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-111

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: REGIONAL CANCER CENTRES (RCC)

Hansard Page: CA 81

Senator Boyce asked:

Could you provide me with a list of the criteria and what ways the Townsville Mater project did not meet those criteria?

Answer:

Attached is a copy of the Health and Hospitals Fund (HHF) Evaluation Criteria (Attachment A) and Regional Cancer Centre Guiding Principles (Attachment B) used to assess proposals submitted under Round 2 of the HHF.

The independent HHF Advisory Board assessed the application against the evaluation criteria and guiding principles and provided advice to the Minister on the outcomes of its assessment.

On 7 July 2010, the Department of Health and Ageing wrote to Mater Health Services North Queensland Ltd and provided advice that although the organisation had put forward a quality proposal, the HHF Advisory Board (the Board) had assessed the project as not aligning with the objectives of the Regional Cancer Centres. While the Board noted that the organisation could operate the proposed PET/CT services, the Board concluded that the services were to be provided as part of general medical imaging services and not as part of integrated cancer services.

As such, the proposal was assessed as having reduced benefits by way of seamless service delivery for the full range of cancer patients. The Board also noted that the proposal outlined links to some local services, but did not articulate these, particularly in terms of private/public sector linkages.

In consideration of the above, the Advisory Board assessed the application from Mater Health Services North Queensland Ltd as not meeting the HHF Evaluation Criteria and Regional Cancer Centre Guiding Principles.