

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-146

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: FLEXIBLE FUNDING POOL TO BE ADMINISTERED BY MEDICARE LOCALS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Has any work been undertaken in relation to aged care and where it fits in the Medicare Locals in particular?

Answer:

From 1 July 2012, Medicare Locals will administer a flexible funding pool totalling \$54.2 million over two years for use in targeting gaps in primary health care services for older Australians receiving aged care support, whether they live independently or in an aged care facility.

The range of eligible allied health services provided will be consistent with those currently available under the Aged Care Access Initiative, including dietetics, physiotherapy, psychology and podiatry.

The measure will also include support for GPs to provide care for older Australians living independently in the community.

The implementation arrangements for this measure will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including GP, specialist and allied health organisations.