

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-227

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: NATIONAL HEALTH AND HOSPITALS NETWORK

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The Budget provided \$29.5 million for a national communications program to promote the National Health and Hospitals Network. Since the NHHN agreement signed at the COAG meeting in April this year - how far have these so-called reforms progressed?

Answer:

Some recently achieved milestones in implementation include:

- capital, facilitation and flexible funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services have commenced;
- commencement of the National Tobacco Campaign 2011 from 30 January 2011;
- release of a discussion paper on National and Local Lead Clinicians Groups on 25 January 2011;
- an open tender for enhanced telephone and web based mental health services closed on 21 January 2011;
- the Australian National Preventive Health Agency became operational on 1 January 2011;
- the draft report of the Productivity Commission inquiry into Caring for Older Australians was released on 21 January 2011;
- the announcement of Medicare Local and Local Hospital Network boundaries on 23 December 2010. The boundaries for Victoria are subject to bilateral discussions at this time;
- an Invitation to Apply for the second wave of eHealth lead implementation sites closed on 23 December 2010;
- an Invitation to Apply closed on 16 December 2010 for four direct funded GP Super Clinic sites and on 21 December 2010 for 11 competitive GP Super Clinic sites;
- the launch of the MyHospitals website on 10 December 2010. This website includes West Australian data;
- the eHealth conference was held on 30 November and 1 December 2010 with approximately 500 attendees;
- Primary Care Infrastructure Grants announced for 245 applicants in November 2010;

- the passage of legislation to permanently establish the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACSQHC) through the House of Representatives on 27 October 2010;
- 100 additional allied health scholarships have been awarded for 2010-11;
- increased viability supplements and consumer directed care packages in Aged Care from 1 July 2010;
- commencement of the Healthcare Identifiers Service on 1 July 2010, after enabling legislation was passed in June 2010; and
- the Tobacco Excise increasing from 30 April 2010.