

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-241

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: LEAD CLINICIANS GROUPS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Please confirm that this was a concept that Kevin Rudd first outlined in a speech to the AMA in Sydney on 28 May 2010.
- b) Given that this was well after the Health and Hospitals Reform Agreement was signed, was it an afterthought?

Answer:

- a) The Lead Clinicians Group initiative was first publicly announced in the former Prime Minister's speech to the Australian Medical Association in Sydney on 28 May 2010.
- b) Strengthened clinical engagement is a key feature of the National Health and Hospitals Network reforms. This is consistent with the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement, which provides that clinicians are to be engaged by Local Hospital Networks when making decisions on service planning and delivery. The Lead Clinicians Group initiative further strengthens this commitment.