

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-242

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: GOVERNING COUNCILS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The agreement with the states clearly outlines that clinical expertise on Network Governing councils should be external to the particular network.

- a) What guarantees do local doctors have that they will be eligible to be members of their local Network Governing Councils?
- b) What processes will be in place to ensure this happens?
- c) What is the position of the various states on local doctors sitting on local boards, noting the Rudd mantra of “federally funded – locally controlled”?

Answer:

a) – c)

The National Health and Hospital Network Agreement outlines the agreed requirements for the composition of governing councils, including relevant clinical expertise. The agreement also states the overall makeup of governing councils will be determined taking into account the need to ensure some local community knowledge and understanding.

The overarching principle is that governing councils should consist of the best people for the job. The local clinical community will be asked to nominate suitable participants and it may be that a local clinician is the most appropriate candidate for a Local Hospital Network governing council.

The New South Wales Government has already appointed governing council members for its 15 geographical Local Hospital Networks (referred to as Local ‘Health’ Networks in New South Wales), with local clinician involvement in all governing councils.