

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-303

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The 2010-11 Budget provided an additional \$355 million for another 23 GP Super Clinics and for grants to existing general practice to expand their operations.

- a) The "GP Super Clinic Program" has now been in operation for three years - how many clinics are fully operational and how many are partially operational?
- b) What is the progress of each of the previously announced GP super clinics?
- c) What is the progress of each of the extra GP super clinics announced in the budget and in the election context?
- d) What criteria were used to determine the location of the GP super clinics announced in the Budget and during the election?
- e) How were these locations determined?

Answer:

- a) Seven Clinics are operational, and eight GP Super Clinics are delivering early services prior to the commencement of construction of the GP Super Clinic or while construction is underway.
- b) Refer to spreadsheet tabled to Question E10-079, with the Senate Community Affairs Committee Secretariat on Friday 22 October 2010.
- c) Of the 28 new GP Super Clinics announced during the 2010 election:
 - A Competitive Invitation to Apply (ITA) process commenced on 6 November 2010 for 11 communities (at Blacktown, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Nowra, Southern Central Coast, Lismore, Liverpool, and Tweed Heads in New South Wales; and Hume City and Western Melbourne in Victoria). This ITA closed on 21 December 2010.
 - Direct Invitations to Apply have been issued for five communities where the Government has identified an operator who is ready to progress a GP Super Clinic (at Cobram in Victoria; Jindabyne in New South Wales; Northam and Rockingham in Western Australia (Noting that the fifth Invitation to Apply was issued to Redcliffe for additional funding for an existing site)).

- Consultations for another 13 communities will be held over the coming months (at Adelaide and Mt Barker in South Australia; Caboolture, Emerald, Gold Coast, Mackay, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, and Wynnum in Queensland; Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory; Darwin in the Northern Territory; Lower Hunter in New South Wales; and West Pilbara in Western Australia).

d) The criteria applied in selecting locations to receive GP Super Clinics were;

- poor access to health services;
- poor health infrastructure;
- where a GP Super Clinic could help take pressure off emergency departments;
- high levels of chronic disease and /or populations with high needs, such as large numbers of children or the elderly; and
- areas currently experiencing, or anticipated to experience, rapid population growth.

e) Senator McLucas stated *‘The criteria for selecting locations to receive a GP Super Clinic were areas where there is poor access to health services, where there is underperforming health infrastructure and where a GP Super Clinic would take pressure off emergency departments... They will go where there are high levels of chronic disease and/or populations with high needs such as large numbers of children or a higher proportion of older people who have higher health needs than the regular population and areas currently experiencing or anticipated to experience rapid population growth’.*

(As recorded in Senate Community Affairs Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates Hansard, Wednesday, 20 October 2010 (Pages CA 54 and CA 55 refer).