

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-304

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The professed aims of these clinics as outlined in Labor's "Delivering GP Super Clinics to local communities" were to:

- Be established in areas of need
- Particularly in rural and regional Australia
- Attract health professionals to areas of workforce shortage
- Help take pressure off hospitals
- Provide a greater focus for tackling chronic disease

Additionally the GP Super Clinics National Program Guide states the clinics will:

- Boost the capacity of primary health care services
 - Be 'strongly' encouraged to bulk bill
 - Complement and enhance the range of existing health services
- a) Across the entire planned roll-out of these GP Super Clinics - now totalling 59 - how many are located in designated Districts of Workforce Shortage?
 - b) How many additional health professionals have been attracted/recruited to areas of workforce shortage?
 - c) What criteria were used to decide the locations of all these clinics and who made the decisions on the locations?

Answer:

- a) As at 3 November 2010, 31 out of the 64 locations for GP Super Clinics are classified as a district of workforce shortage (DWS) for the employment of overseas trained general practitioners.
- b) The Department does not collect this data.
- c) 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 of 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.

GP Super Clinic locations were announced by the Government as part of its election commitments.

As recorded in Senate Community Affairs Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates Hansard, Wednesday, 20 October 2010 (Pages CA54 and CA55 refer).