

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-306

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What pressure has been taken off hospitals?
- b) Given that a stated objective of these clinics was to relieve pressure on public hospitals, what impact have these clinics had on presentations at public hospital emergency departments?
- c) Does the Department have a means of measuring or monitoring their impact on supposedly relieving pressure on hospital emergency departments?
- d) First Assistant Secretary, Megan Morris, told Estimates hearings on 4 June 2009 - "There will be an evaluation of the GP Super Clinics Program and we will be working together with state and territory governments on that." Does the Department intend to provide an evaluation of this clinic program - if so how and when?

Answer:

a and b)

As outlined in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's report, *Australian Hospital Statistics 2008-09*, over 690,000 hospital separations were classified in 2008-09 as potentially preventable. As identified in the National Program Guide 2010, each GP Super Clinic will provide multidisciplinary integrated patient centred care which addresses local health needs and priorities. This includes health promotion and chronic disease prevention activities that, along with a focus on better management of chronic disease, may reduce the number of potentially preventable hospitalisations.

c) No.

- d) An evaluation Framework is being developed by the Department to assess the program against its objectives, namely:
  - to provide well integrated multidisciplinary patient centred care;
  - to be responsive to local community needs and priorities, including the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and older Australians in Residential Aged Care Facilities and community based settings;
  - to provide accessible, culturally appropriate and affordable care to their patients;

- to support preventive care, including promotion of healthy lifestyles, addressing risk factor and lifestyle modification to prevent chronic disease and improving early detection and management of chronic disease;
- to demonstrate efficient and effective use of information technology;
- to provide a working environment and conditions which attract and retain their workforce;
- to be centres of high quality best practice care;
- to operate with viable, sustainable and efficient business models;
- to support the future primary care workforce; and
- to integrate with local programs and initiatives.

The release of evaluation reports is a matter for the Government.