

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October

Question: E10-314

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Given that the former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing Senator McLucas told Estimates hearings that and I quote - "there will not be impact on existing services, that is a given. The last thing you would want to do through any program is jeopardise existing programs that are there. The GP super clinics are designed to complement existing services, not compete with them. That is a fundamental of the program" and at the same hearing Department Deputy Secretary Philip Davies said and I quote - "One of the criteria that we will be looking at in the evaluation (of clinic proposals) is precisely the impact on existing providers"

Is the Department concerned about the rising volume of concern from doctors providing services to communities where the government funded GP clinics are opening that they are damaging existing general practices?

Answer:

GP Super Clinics are expected to complement and enhance the range of existing health services to meet local needs. Linkages between GP Super Clinics and local health services are encouraged and it is intended that GP Super Clinics will integrate with local programs and initiatives. There will also be opportunities for GP Super Clinics and existing health services to develop partnership approaches to local health service planning and co-ordination. Some health services may be interested in providing services within the GP Super Clinic on a sessional basis. It is also possible that some GP Super Clinics will involve interested local health professionals or practices in training or research activities.