

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-321

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: OVERSEAS TRAINED DOCTORS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) How many Overseas Trained Doctors are working in GP Super Clinics and at which clinics are they practising?
- b) How many existing or future GP Super Clinics have applied for exemptions under the section 19AB of the Health Insurance Act to employ Overseas Trained Doctors?
- c) How many exemptions have been granted - and at which GP Super Clinics?
- d) How many are currently being given consideration - and for which GP Super Clinics?
- e) How many have been rejected - and which GP Super Clinics did these rejected exemptions apply to?
- f) What special circumstances have applied for exemptions to be granted and at what GP Super Clinics?

Answers:

a, b and c)

The Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) is not responsible for employment contracts between the GP Super Clinics and the medical practitioners employed at these locations, and is therefore unable to confirm the number of overseas trained doctors who are working at the clinics.

The Department can confirm that since 1 January 2008, seven Australian Government funded GP Super clinics have applied for a preliminary assessment of district of workforce shortage (PADWS) for the purpose of employing overseas trained doctors (OTDs). These clinics are identified in Table 1.

Table 1: GP Super Clinics that have applied for a PADWS

GP Super Clinic	Date of Application	Number of positions granted
Strathpine GP Super Clinic	5 June 2009	4 positions
	11 March 2010	1 position
	16 April 2010	1 position
Playford North GP Super Clinic	23 November 2009	1 position
	21 January 2010	3 positions
Portland GP Super Clinic	15 June 2009	1 position
Devonport GP Super Clinic	27 October 2009	1 position
Burnie GP Super Clinic	10 July 2009	2 positions
Warnervale GP Super Clinic	6 September 2009	1 position
Modbury GP Super Clinic	14 April 2010	2 positions Rescinded 13 July 2010
Berwick GP Super Clinic	29 June 2010	4 after hours positions

- d) The Department is not currently considering any outstanding preliminary assessment of PADWS application from an Australian Government funded GP Super Clinic.
- e) Advice regarding the Australian GP Super Clinics that have had PADWS applications rejected, and the reasons for these rejections is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 - GP Super Clinics that have had PADWS rejected

GP Super Clinic	Date Rejected	No. Overseas trained doctors approved	Reason for Rejection
Burnie GP Super Clinic	17 September 2009	0	No Spec Circumstances
Modbury GP Super Clinic	13 July 2010	0	Modbury is inner metropolitan
Strathpine GP Super Clinic	19 October 2010	0	6 positions had already been granted

- f) Advice regarding the Australian GP Super Clinics that have had PADWS applications approved under special circumstances, and the special circumstances considered by the Department, is presented in the Table 3.

Table 3: GP Super Clinics with PADWS Special Circumstances Approval

GP Super Clinic	Date of Application	No. Overseas trained doctors approved	Special Circumstances
Strathpine GP Super Clinic	5 June 2009	4	Indigenous population, patients drawn from surrounding DWS, low socio-economic status of patients.
	11 March 2010	1	Service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients
	16 April 2010	1	Doctor already working in the same SLA
Berwick GP Super Clinic	29 June 2010	4	After hours only