

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-323

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) At what stage of development is the Modbury GP Super Clinic in Adelaide?
- b) Is this clinic being developed in conjunction with the South Australian Government via South Australia Health?
- c) Is it the case that this clinic will not be opened until late 2011?
- d) What staff has been employed by this clinic to be operated by South Australian Health?
- e) When is it expected the clinic will recruit staff?
- f) Is it the case that the Department received and approved an application from this clinic to appoint Overseas Trained Doctors on the grounds that it was a District of Workforce Shortage?
- g) Did the Department subsequently withdraw this approval and why did it do so?
- h) Why would this clinic, located in metropolitan Adelaide seek this status and why did the Department approve it?

Answer:

- a) The Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic will encompass a main clinic at Smart Road, Modbury and a secondary clinic at Gilles Crescent, Hillcrest.

Smart Road, Modbury:

Construction of a new single storey Stage 1 building (approx 400m²) at Smart Road was completed on 11 November 2010 and early services commenced on 22 November 2010. Stages 2 and 3 of construction at Smart Road are underway and are scheduled for completion by late-2011. Stages 2 and 3 involve construction of an on-grade car park and a two storey building at Smart Road (which will be joined to the Stage 1 building). The total building size at completion will be approximately 2,400m².

Gilles Crescent, Hillcrest:

Development approval has been received for a new single storey primary health care centre of approximately 1,500m². The building tender has been finalised and construction of the new building is due to commence in late 2010, with completion expected by late 2011.

b) Yes, the South Australian Department of Health is the funding recipient with responsibility for establishing the GP Plus Super Clinic. This enables strong links between public and private primary care services, as well as improved links with the local public hospital.

c) As outlined in a), both the main clinic at Smart Road, Modbury and the secondary clinic at Gilles Crescent, Hillcrest are due for completion by late 2011. Early services from the new Stage 1 building at Smart Road commenced on 22 November 2010.

d and e)

The Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic will offer integrated state publicly funded and privately funded services, with a particular focus on chronic disease management, primary prevention and early intervention.

Existing community health staff will provide services from the Clinic. The Adelaide Health Service and the South Australian Department of Health are actively progressing arrangements to recruit/procure additional service providers in the first half of 2011.

f) On 14 April 2010, the Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) granted preliminary assessment of district of workforce shortage (PADWS) to the Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic to employ two overseas trained doctors.

g) The Department rescinded the PADWS on 12 July 2010. While Modbury is a district of workforce shortage for general practitioners, it is also classified as an inner metropolitan location by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Inner metropolitan locations are ineligible for the employment of overseas trained general practitioners into private practice during business hours. This is due to inner metropolitan areas having better access to public and allied health services relative to that of outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas. Overseas trained general practitioners are therefore restricted from practising within these areas to ensure better access to primary health services in outer metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

h) The Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic sought a PADWS to employ two overseas trained general practitioners. Due to an administrative error, the Department provided a PADWS to the Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic for this purpose. Once the error was discovered the PADWS was rescinded.