

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-324

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What is the department's response to the report on 14 October in NT News (p.2) that the Dwyer Medical Centre, a bulk billing medical center in Palmerston (NT) intends to close because it can't compete with the Government's new GP Superclinic which is located very close to this existing service and that the owner of another clinic says it may be in jeopardy because of the Super Clinics presence?
- b) Also under this budget measure, the Government announced funding for approximately 425 grants to expand existing GP practices; and primary care services?
- c) What progress has been made in implementing this grant funding?
- d) How many applications have been received in total for this grant funding?
- e) Of these, how many applications were received from (i) GP practices (ii) primary care services (iii) community health services (iv) Indigenous medical services?
- f) What proportion of the grant applications were received from rural and remote areas?
- g) When will the successful grant recipients be announced?
- h) Will additional funding be available if there are more than 425 worthy grant applications?

Answer:

- a) Palmerston City is a District of Workforce Shortage for General Practice. Bulk billed services are in demand by the Palmerston Community.

The Department understands that the Dwyer Medical Clinic had plans to close down prior to the opening of the GP Super Clinic, due to the non-ongoing nature of its leasing arrangements.

b and c)

The Invitation to Apply for the 2010-11 round of the Primary Care Infrastructure Grants Program opened on 25 June 2010 and closed on 20 August 2010. Interest in the grants was high. Assessment of applications has been completed and the outcome of the round was announced by the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, on 25 November 2010. More than 240 local clinics around the country will benefit from a Primary Care Infrastructure Grant.

- d) Around 600 applications were received for the 2010-11 grant round.
- e) The Department does not collect information on this basis.
- f) Around half of the applications received were from Inner Regional to Very Remote areas of Australia (Australian Standard Geographical Classification-Remoteness Areas 2 to 5).
- g) Please refer to b and c above.
- h) Under the 2010-11 budget, a total of \$117 million is available for Primary Care Infrastructure Grants across 2010-11 and 2011-12. The 2011-12 grant round will be advertised in the first half of 2011.