

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-325

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: DIABETES INITIATIVE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Has the department had discussions on the implementation of this measure and concerns about this measure with GP stakeholder groups? If yes, who and when?
- b) Has the department convened an advisory group of external stakeholders to advise on the implementation of the measure? If so:
- c) Who is on the advisory group?
- d) Are the individuals on the advisory group there are individual advisory or representing specific organizations? If specific organizations, list them?
- e) Has this group met yet? If yes, when? If yes, what issues were discussed and what concerns were raised?
- f) We understand that the AMA is not participating in the advisory group. If so, how can the department guarantee that it has adequately consulted the profession?
- g) What proposals have been discussed to mitigate against the concerns that stakeholder groups have been raising publicly and with the department about this measure?
- h) Is the program on track to be implemented from the announced start date?
- i) Will patients who are enrolled under this program still have access to Medicare rebates? If yes, for what services.
- j) Will patients with diabetes who aren't enrolled under this program get access to additional allied health services to assist in the treatment of their diabetes? If not, why not?
- k) Will the higher costs of delivering multidisciplinary care in areas such as rural Australia be recognized through some sort of rural loading built into the funding arrangements?
- l) Has any modeling been done or advice provided to government on the extension of this program to patients with chronic disease other than diabetes.

Answer:

- a) Representatives from the Department have met with general practitioner stakeholder groups, including:
 - Diabetes Australia on 14 May 2010;
 - the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) on 21 April 2010;
 - the Australian Medical Association (AMA) on 27 April 2010 and 26 May 2010;

- the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) on 12 May 2010;
- the Australian General Practice Network (APGN) on 13 July 2010; and
- the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Advisory Group on 18 May 2010. This group includes representatives from the RACGP, AMA, AGPN, RDAA and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

These key stakeholder groups provided initial views and comments on the proposed diabetes program arrangements, which the Department noted.

b) On 16 July 2010, the Minister for Health and Ageing announced the establishment of an advisory group to provide advice on the development and implementation of the new diabetes program. On 12 November 2010, the Minister for Health and Ageing announced the early commencement of a pilot of the Coordinated Care for Diabetes reform.

c) The Diabetes Advisory Group consists of the following members:

Professor Jim Bishop (CHAIR)	Chief Medical Officer
Professor Greg Johnson	National CEO (Acting), Diabetes Australia
Ms Moira Watson	Diabetes Australia, National Board member and President Diabetes WA
Ms Rose-Anne Kelso	President of Diabetes Australia QLD
Ms Carol Bennett	CEO, Consumers Health Forum
Dr Emil Djakic	Chairman, Australian General Practice Network
Dr Chris Mitchell	Past President, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
Associate Professor N Wah Cheung	President, Australian Diabetes Society
Ms Nuala Harkin	President, Australian Diabetes Educators Association
Ms Belinda Caldwell	CEO, Australian Practice Nurses Association
Ms Yvonne Chaperon	Assistant Federal Secretary, Australian Nursing Federation
Ms Carol Mioduchowski	Podiatrist and immediate past President of Allied Health Professions Australia
Ms Claire Hewat	CEO, Dietitians Association of Australia
Dr Tony Hobbs	Chaired the External Reference Group of the National Primary Care Strategy
Dr Christine Bennett	Chaired the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission
Professor Paul Zimmet	Director, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
Dr Alex Brown	Head of the Centre for Indigenous Vascular and Diabetes Research, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
Dr Steve Hambleton	President, Australian Medical Association
Dr Jeffrey Ayton	President, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

d) Dr Christine Bennett, Dr Alex Brown, and Dr Tony Hobbs have been appointed to the advisory group in an individual capacity. All other members have been appointed as organisational representatives. The organisations represented on the advisory group are listed in c).

- e) The first meeting of the Diabetes Advisory Group was held on 8 December 2010. Issues discussed included the design of the pilot and the evaluation framework; practice and patient eligibility requirements; funding arrangements; and performance indicators.
- f) The Australian Medical Association is represented on the Diabetes Advisory Group.
- g) The detailed arrangements for the Coordinated Care for Diabetes pilot will be determined in consultation with key stakeholders.
- h) On 12 November 2010, the Minister for Health and Ageing announced that the Coordinated Care for Diabetes pilot will begin from 1 July 2011.
- i) The detailed arrangements for the pilot will be determined in consultation with key stakeholders, through the Diabetes Advisory Group.
- j) Patients not participating in the pilot will continue to have access to allied health services through the current Medicare Benefits Schedule arrangements.
- k) The detailed arrangements for the pilot will be determined in consultation with key stakeholders, through the Diabetes Advisory Group.
- l) The pilot focuses on diabetes, as around 32 per cent of preventable hospital admissions in 2007-08 were related to complications from diabetes.