

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-354

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: PRACTICE NURSES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Has the department done any work on the implications of grandfathering those existing practices which would be better off under the current practice nurse funding arrangements than the new funding arrangements?
- b) If yes, what options are available?
- c) What are the implications?
- d) Have these options been discussed with stakeholders?

Answer:

- a) Grandfathering arrangements have been put in place for this program. Under the new funding arrangement, no practice accessing the current practice nurse funding arrangements will be worse off during the first three years of the program. The Department estimates that, at the commencement of the program, a small number of practices (mainly non-accredited practices) may be disadvantaged under the new arrangements. Many of these practices will become eligible for the incentive once they have achieved accreditation.
- b) The Department will be working closely with the key stakeholders to develop the implementation arrangements for the new program. The grandfathering arrangements will be further developed through this process.
- c) The Department will listen to stakeholder views and concerns during the development of the implementation arrangements.
- d) Grandfathering arrangements will be discussed with key stakeholders through the Technical Working Group. The first meeting of the Technical Working Group is scheduled for late November 2010.