

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-355

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: PRACTICE NURSES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Given that the Government's scheme is capped at 5 grants, what modelling has the department done to explore what the impact of the Government's changes will be on mid to large size general practices?
- b) Why was a cap of 5 grants per practice chosen when the government is trying to encourage the establishment of larger multidisciplinary practices?

Answer:

- a) The Department estimates that the vast majority of practices, including mid to large size practices, will benefit financially as a result of the new arrangements. A small number of mid to large practices may be disadvantaged under the new arrangements. For those practices that may be disadvantaged under the new arrangements, grandfathering arrangements will be in place for the first three years of the program.
- b) The cap of five incentives acknowledges that most practices currently have five or fewer full time equivalent GPs.