

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-373

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: LOCAL HOSPITAL NETWORKS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Will all states and territories be implementing the same local hospital governance arrangements?
- b) How is the Department ensuring that the state governments comply with the former Prime Minister's requirement that local doctors be on local hospital networks?

Answer:

- a) It is expected that states and territories will implement Local Hospital Network governance arrangements in accordance with the agreements to implement National Health Reform.
- b) The National Health and Hospital Network Agreement outlines the agreed requirements for the composition of governing councils, including relevant clinical expertise. The agreement also states the overall makeup of governing councils will be determined taking into account the need to ensure some local community knowledge and understanding.

The overarching principle is that governing councils should consist of the best people for the job. The local clinical community will be asked to nominate suitable participants and it may be that a local clinician is the most appropriate candidate for a Local Hospital Network governing council.

The New South Wales Government has already appointed governing council members for its 15 geographical Local Hospital Networks (referred to as Local 'Health' Networks in New South Wales), with local clinician involvement in all governing councils.