

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-416

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) Can the Department explain how the investment of \$5 million in this Devonport GP practice is not just a \$5 million boost for one local business at the expense of other GP practices in the area?
- b) How many extra GPs are at the clinic compared to before it became a GP Superclinic?
- c) What performance measures are placed on the operator of the Devonport GP Superclinic?
- d) Was any analysis conducted on the impact of other clinics in Devonport and surrounds?

Answer:

- a) The establishment of the Devonport GP Super Clinic was through a competitive Invitation to Apply process. All local health services had the opportunity to apply for the funding. The current operator was selected as its application was determined the strongest against the program objectives.

Linkages between the Devonport GP Super Clinic and other local health services are encouraged as patients may benefit from the additional range of services offered to them from the Devonport GP Super Clinic. There may also be opportunities for the Devonport GP Super Clinic and existing health services to develop partnership approaches to local health service planning and co-ordination.

- b) The Devonport GP Super Clinic opened in July 2010. A new GP commenced with the practice in July 2010 and the practice has been in discussions with Health Recruitment Plus regarding the possibility of recruiting more GPs.
- c) The Devonport GP Super Clinic, as for all GP Super Clinics, is required to perform in line with the objectives of the program, namely:
  - to provide well integrated multidisciplinary patient centred care;
  - to be responsive to local community needs and priorities, including the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and older Australians in Residential Aged Care Facilities and community based settings;
  - to provide accessible, culturally appropriate and affordable care to their patients;

- to support preventive care, including promotion of healthy lifestyles, addressing risk factor and lifestyle modification to prevent chronic disease and improving early detection and management of chronic disease;
- to demonstrate efficient and effective use of information technology;
- to provide a working environment and conditions which attract and retain their workforce;
- to be centres of high quality best practice care;
- to operate with viable, sustainable and efficient business models;
- to support the future primary care workforce; and
- to integrate with local programs and initiatives.

Operators of GP Super Clinics are required to meet these objectives for a minimum of 20 years.

- d) The Devonport GP Super Clinic was a 2007 election commitment. Local consultations were conducted on 2 October 2008 and all local members and potentially affected members of the local community were encouraged to attend. A précis of each consultation was published on our website (refer to *Hansard Budget Estimates Wednesday, 20 October 2010, page CA 56*).