

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-417

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) How many tenders were submitted for the operation of the Burnie (Cooee) GP Super Clinic?
- b) When was a decision made to award the contract to the successful operators?
- c) When was the contract signed with the operator?
- d) What conditions were placed within the contract with respect to opening hours and bulk billing?
- e) When will the clinic start operating?
- f) What is the reason for substantial blow out in the time line for this project?

Answer:

- a) Four.
- b) 10 March 2009.
- c) 17 April 2009.
- d) The contract does not stipulate specific operating hours or bulk billing arrangements. GP Super Clinics are required to operate with viable and sustainable business models. As the Australian Government does not own or operate GP Super Clinics, balancing these requirements, including determining fee for services and remuneration arrangements for health care professionals, is the responsibility of the owner/operator of each clinic. The decision as to which and how many patients are bulk-billed is therefore determined by the owner/operator of the clinic, as is generally the case for privately operated General Practices.
- e) The clinic will commence operations soon after practical completion, which is expected to be achieved by the end of 2010/early 2011.
- f) Additional requirements relating to traffic issues required by Council prior to development approval and construction delays.