

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-418

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: BURNIE GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Colbeck asked:

- a) What will be its hours of operation? In April 2009 Health Minister Nicola Roxon stated 9am-9pm on weekdays and 10am-4pm on weekends, but in May 2010, the Prime Minister stated 8am-9pm weekends and weekdays?
- b) Where did each of these people obtain their advice on opening hours for the clinic?
- c) Why are the statements different?

Answer:

- a) While one of the objectives of the GP Super Clinics program is to provide accessible, culturally appropriate and affordable care to their patients, the decision regarding operating hours is determined by the owner/operator of each clinic, as is generally the case for privately operated General Practices, taking into account:
 - the health needs and priorities of the local community;
 - the availability of existing services in the area; and
 - the program requirement to operate a viable and sustainable GP Super Clinic.

The Burnie GP Super Clinic operator has indicated that it will operate 12 hours per day, Monday to Friday and four hours (increasing to six) per day on Saturday and Sunday.

- b) Minister Roxon obtained her advice from the Department based on the operator's initial application to operate the GP Super Clinic. Information provided to the Prime Minister was also based on this advice.
- c) It has been reported that the then Prime Minister stated that the Burnie GP Super Clinic would be open on weekends and operate from 8am to about 9pm. It may have been misconstrued that this meant the clinic was open until 9pm every night, rather than on weekend nights only.