

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-360

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: MEDICARE SERVICES MIDWIVES AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Are any aspects of the scheme being reviewed, or are there any changes being proposed or considered, in relation to the definition of an eligible midwife or nurse practitioner, collaborative care requirements or any other aspect?

Answer:

An external consultant has been engaged to undertake an independent review of the Improving Maternity Services Budget Package, including stakeholder experiences of collaborative arrangements under the Medicare arrangements for midwives.

The Department is also monitoring collaborative arrangements for nurse practitioners and midwives under a framework agreed by the Minister, which includes:

- collating and managing complaints and enquiries;
- ongoing stakeholder engagement; and
- monitoring data on the uptake of nurse practitioner and midwifery MBS items.

Currently there are no changes being proposed or considered in relation to the midwifery and nurse practitioner measures.