

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-371

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: MEDICARE LOCALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In Question E11-122 from the Budget Estimates, you answered that Medicare Locals are not “Primarily service delivery organisation”. To what extent does “primarily” mean?

Answer:

Medicare Locals are being established to plan and coordinate primary health care service delivery to address local health care needs and service gaps. While Medicare Locals are able to undertake service delivery roles, the extent to which they perform such roles is a determination for the individual Medicare Local, with respect to local needs and market availability.