

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-382

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINIC

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Can you explain the delay at the GP Super Clinics at:

- a) Cockburn in Western Australia
- b) Wanneroo in Western Australia
- c) Wallan in Victoria
- d) South Morang in Victoria
- e) Logan hub in South Brisbane
- f) Mount Isa in Queensland

Answer:

- a) Cockburn (WA)
 - Implementation activities have taken time due to the complexity of the proposed arrangements including provision of land, consideration of the GP Super Clinic as part of the development of a larger local Council health precinct, business arrangements for the entity to operate the GP Super Clinic, working with potential partners including universities and health service providers and identifying local health needs. Construction of the GP Super Clinic has now commenced.
- b) Wanneroo (WA)
 - Implementation activities involved time for consultations and negotiations with a wide variety of stakeholders to identify a suitable organisation to establish the Clinic. Following the brokering of a solution with key local stakeholders, Edith Cowan University (ECU) was identified as the preferred applicant. Extensive negotiations were required to finalise the complex legal

framework for the University to establish the GP Super Clinic. Planning activities are currently progressing with the local Council.

c) Wallan (VIC)

- Implementation activities involved lengthy consultations with key local stakeholders to agree a suitable organisation to establish the Clinic. Following identification of Mitchell Community Health Services (MCHS) as the appropriate organisation, a protracted negotiation process was commenced with the local Council over a suitable site for the Clinic.
- As a result of the local Council's move away from an earlier commitment around providing land for the GP Super Clinic, the Government announced additional funding of \$2.5 million, bringing the total funding available to establish the Clinic, including funds to purchase land, to \$3.5 million.
- After identifying a potential location for the the Clinic, Council commenced a community consultation process in relation to the proposed site. Given the timing of the consultation process MCHS subsequently moved to purchase an alternative parcel of land. Mandatory site investigations were completed in late November 2011. Rezoning of the site is required and is currently with the Victorian Government for consideration, with the support of the Mitchell Shire Council.

d) South Morang (VIC)

- Implementation activities were initially protracted due to issues associated with the identification of a suitable site. Once identified, extensive negotiations were required between the landowners, the developer of the neighbouring shopping precinct and the Victorian Government in regards to the easement for the adjacent railway line.
- Planning approval was received in late 2011 and activity is progressing to enable the commencement of construction.

e) Logan hub South Brisbane (QLD)

- Proposed arrangements for the establishment of the Logan hub of the Brisbane Southside GP Super Clinic at an existing Medical Clinic in the Meadowvale Shopping Village did not eventuate.
- Following lengthy negotiations with the principal of the Medical Centre and with the shopping centre owner, UQ Healthcare independently established the Logan GP Super Clinic at the premises originally proposed in the Meadowvale Shopping Village in September 2011. This first stage of the Logan site has been open and offering services since 5 September 2011.
- Planning for a second stage of the Clinic at a Greenfield site opposite the current site is currently underway.

f) Mount Isa in Queensland

- North and West Queensland Primary Health Care Association Inc (NWQPHC) signed a funding agreement with the Department in mid 2009. In early 2010, NWQPHC advised the Department that, given the property market in Mt Isa, it could not purchase land and develop a Clinic for the available funding of \$2.5 million.
- Minister Roxon subsequently announced that an additional \$2.5 million would be made available, bringing the total amount of funding for the Mt Isa GP Super Clinic to \$5 million, and that an open approach to market would be undertaken through a competitive Invitation to Apply process to find a suitable operator for the Clinic. An application from Kinetic Health Group Pty Ltd was successful in this process.
- After a protracted period in which the original funding arrangements with NWQPHC were concluded, contractual arrangements with Kinetic Health Group Pty Ltd were finalised. Kinetic Health Group Pty Ltd is currently concluding arrangements for the purchase of a site on which to establish the GP Super Clinic.