

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-392

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: REGIONALLY TAILORED PRIMARY CARE INITIATIVES THROUGH
MEDICARE LOCALS FUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

For each Medicare Local and Division of General Practice:

- a) How much money has been allocated from the Regionally Tailored Primary Care Initiatives through Medicare Locals Fund?
- b) How is the money allocated to each Medicare Local and Division of General Practice?

Answer:

- a) The Regionally Tailored Primary Care Initiatives through Medicare Locals Fund (the Fund) consolidates a number of Commonwealth programs. In 2011-12, the Fund is not for the exclusive provision of funding to Medicare Locals and Divisions of General Practice.

A total of \$216.54 million has been allocated in 2011-12 through these consolidated programs. In 2011-12, Medicare Locals and Divisions of General Practice will receive funding of \$77,162,000 through the Fund. Divisions of General Practice and Medicare Locals may receive funding through other Flexible Funds, grants or other sources. These have not been included.

- b) Core funding to Medicare Locals is allocated using a funding formula which takes into account the characteristics of each Medicare Local community, such as rurality, socio-economic status, population age profiles, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

Processes for allocating other funds to Medicare Locals, as existing funding arrangements for other grant recipients lapse, will be developed as part of the Fund Guidelines.