

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-410

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Is it true that there is an existing Pharmacy located within 1km of the Wodonga GP Super Clinic?
- b) Did the Operational plan for the Wodonga GP Super Clinic include a proposal for pharmacy?
- c) Was the Wodonga GP Super Clinic announcement consistent with the Pharmacy Agreement at the time the Wodonga GP Super Clinic announcement was made on the 14 August 2009? (The pharmacy agreement states that a new pharmacy is not allowed within 1km of an already existing pharmacy)
- d) Was this proposal consistent with the Pharmacy Agreement at the time the Operational Plan was submitted? (The pharmacy agreement states that a new pharmacy is not allowed within 1km of an already existing pharmacy)
- e) Did the Department ever advise the Wodonga GP Super Clinic that their proposal was not consistent with the Pharmacy Agreement?
- f) If so on what dates?
- g) Doesn't that mean the Wodonga GP Super Clinic was not able to have a Pharmacy in contradiction to the Minister's announcement because it would have breached the location rules under the Pharmacy Agreement at the time?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) The information requested relates to the business affairs of the Wodonga GP Super Clinic and its provision as a response to the question would be likely to damage the commercial interests of individuals or the organisation.

While a GP Super Clinic Operational Plan may indicate an intention to include a pharmacy in a Clinic, as per the GP Super Clinic National program Guide 2008, any such arrangement must be in accordance with the (4<sup>th</sup>) Community Pharmacy Agreement.

- c) As per the GP Super Clinic National Program Guide 2008, a variety of potential options existed for establishing a pharmacy under the (4th) Community Pharmacy Agreement. Until an application is submitted to the relevant Branch of the Department, it is not possible to make an assessment on whether a proposal for a pharmacy within the Wodonga GP Super Clinic would be successful under the rules.
- d) See the response to b) and c).
- e) See the response to c).
- f) See the response to c).
- g) See the response to c).