

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-411

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: PRIMARY LOCATION RULES/ GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Changes to the Pharmacy Location Rules were conveniently announced by the minister on 27th September 2011.

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/46F15B9EB4743276CA257918000637B5/\\$File/NR192.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/46F15B9EB4743276CA257918000637B5/$File/NR192.pdf)

These rules now allow new pharmacies to "be established in facilities such as large medical centres" without existing pharmacy approval.

- a) Would the Wodonga GP Super Clinic be classed as a "large medical centre"?
- b) Do the changes to the Pharmacy Agreement announced on 27 September 2011 impact on the Wodonga GP Super Clinic?

Answer:

- a) Given that an application has not yet been submitted, the Department cannot make an assessment as to whether the Wodonga GP Super Clinic would be classed as a large medical centre under the Pharmacy Location Rules (the Rules).
- b) Similarly, until an application is submitted, 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.

More information on the Pharmacy Location Rules, including the criteria under each Rule, is publicly available on the Department's website

<http://www.health.gov.au/acpa>