

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-007

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: LEAD CLINICIANS GROUPS DISCUSSION PAPER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

I note the short timeframes for consultations relating to the health reforms: four weeks for the responses to the Lead Clinicians Groups Discussion Paper, just over two weeks for the Discussion Paper on Medicare Locals Governance and Functions.

- a) With these short timeframes, have stakeholders been able to provide considered responses?
- b) What input, if any, has public consultation on the health reform processes had on the final decisions that have been made?

Answer:

- a) Yes. The Department of Health and Ageing received in excess of 60 submissions to the Discussion Paper on Lead Clinicians Groups and in excess of 220 submissions to the Discussion Paper on Medicare Locals Governance and Functions.
- b) The consultations on the design of the Lead Clinicians Groups are in progress. The *Guidelines for the establishment and initial operation of Medicare Locals and information for applicants wishing to apply for funding to establish Medicare Locals*, released on 22 February 2011, were completed after taking into account submissions received and views of other key stakeholders.