

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-144

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP SUPER CLINICS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What elements or analysis are required in tender for a GP Super Clinic?
- b) Is there a requirement to submit a cost-benefit analysis, what documents form part of a tender?
- c) Are these publicly available?

Answer:

- a) Applications for GP Super Clinics funding are required to address the Statement of Requirement specified in the Invitation to Apply documentation. Applications are then assessed against selection criteria identified in the GP Super Clinics *National Program Guide* (published in 2008 and updated in 2010).
- b) As identified in the application form included in the Invitation to Apply documentation and published in the GP Super Clinics *National Program Guide 2010*, applicants are required to provide a range of financial information including cash flow projections, capital works budgets and details of any anticipated financial arrangements in addition to Commonwealth grant funding.

An independent financial analysis is undertaken of each application and this analysis is taken into consideration as part of the assessment process.

- c) It is the policy of the GP Super Clinics Program to treat the applications as commercial in confidence and not to make applications available to the public. There are several reasons for this, each of which flow from the requirement in the application form for applicants to provide a range of business start-up information. The information has a commercial value to the applicant that would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, diminished if the information was disclosed because it relates to the applicant's business and professional affairs and is unlikely to be known outside the applicant's business.

Further, the disclosure of the business, commercial or financial affairs of an applicant could reasonably be expected to prejudice the future supply of information in applications, either in the range of information provided in applications, or in the range of applications received, due to the risks associated with the potential release of the information.

The Department has also been concerned that publication through the release of applications may lead to plagiarism or the circulation of applications that could lead to pre-preparation of applications rather than honest or true responses to the requirements of the criteria. This may adversely affect the outcomes of the assessment process.

The Department does provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, who then have an opportunity to reconsider their approach, should they wish to apply for funding in another locality.