

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-155

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: AFTERHOURS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In addition to the phasing out of the Afterhours PIP, can DoHA advise the basis for the phasing out of the General Practice After Hours (GPAH) Program?

Answer:

Medicare Locals will be responsible for ensuring the availability of suitable face-to-face after hours primary care services throughout their region. As each Medicare Local is established it will be funded to review existing after hours primary care service provision in its region, and to organise for priority gaps to be filled until July 2013 when comprehensive service planning and funding support is scheduled to commence.

Medicare Locals will be required to make best possible use of the available local health infrastructure, including existing after hours service providers some of which will be previous or current funding recipients under the current GPAH Program.

The GPAH Program will continue to offer grant funding until 1 July 2012, by which time its role will have been subsumed by Medicare Locals throughout Australia. All GPAH grants will be honoured.