

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-157

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: MEDICARE LOCALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Under Medicare Locals, will rural and regional GP's have access to any funding similar to what the Afterhours PIP or the GPAH Program provided?
- b) Please confirm that in 2008-09, these two programs alone provided for \$132.3 million in funding which particularly benefitted rural and regional GP services and directly supported GP service provision for afterhours services.

Answer:

- a) Yes. Medicare Locals will ensure that communities in their region have suitable after hours services in place by building on existing local after hours arrangements and directing funding to after hours services that best meet local needs. Rural and regional GPs that provide services that are well matched to community need will continue to be supported through Medicare Locals. These arrangements will replace funding that has previously been provided through the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) After Hours Incentive and the General Practice After Hours (GPAH) Program.
- b) During 2008-09:
 - \$56.36 million in funding was provided via the PIP After Hours Incentive to encourage general practices to ensure their patients have access to quality after hours care; and
 - \$19.94 million was provided via the GPAH Program to support the viability of after hours GP services and those normal hour services wishing to extend their hours of operation into the after hours period.