

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-159

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: MEDICARE LOCALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Has DoHA finalised a funding formula in relation to how funds are to be distributed equitably amongst Medicare Locals?
- b) Have any relativities been determined in relation to funding for rural and regional Medicare Locals versus metropolitan Medicare Locals?

Answer:

- a) A total of \$477 million over four years will be provided to establish a national network of Medicare Locals. The department is currently developing a funding formula for Medicare Locals to ensure funds are distributed efficiently and equitably to Medicare Locals across Australia.
- b) The funding formula is likely to take into account the local characteristics for each Medicare Local, including rurality.