

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-2011, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-202

OUTCOME 6: Rural Health

Topic: RURAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) What were the names and corresponding amounts of the four separate programs consolidated into the Rural Primary Health Services program on 1 January 2010?
- b) How much of the savings generated will be reallocated to establishing Medicare Locals?
- c) What will be the impact of rural health services on the consolidation?

Answer:

- a) The four previously separate programs that were consolidated into the Rural Primary Health Services (RPHS) program from 1 January 2010 were:  
Regional Health Services; More Allied Health Services; Multipurpose Centres; Building Healthy Communities.

Funding provided to each of the programs in their last full year of funding - 2008-09 is as follows:

Regional Health Services	\$47,594,810
More Allied Health Services	\$16,852,988
Multipurpose Centres	\$1,879,470
Building Healthy Communities	\$1,820,356

- b) There will be no identified savings in the 2010-11 financial year, as the consolidated RPHS program will maintain a focus on increasing access to a range of primary and allied health care services and activities for rural and remote communities. Medicare Locals will not be funded from this program.
- c) The consolidation has enabled administrative efficiencies that have resulted in community based primary health services having greater flexibility in the delivery of allied health services, including additional preventative health projects. The consolidation also provides an opportunity for better service coordination and improved access to services identified as priorities for the communities.