

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000376

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Health Care Homes

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

The Department's website says that the first tranche of enrolled patients will be identified by March 2017. Has this happened? If not, why not?

Answer:

The first tranche of patients has not yet been identified as potentially eligible for enrolment in a Health Care Home.

A risk stratification tool will be developed and then used to identify patients who are potentially eligible to enrol in a Health Care Home. The risk stratification tool will draw upon patients' medical records at their general practice or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service to estimate their relative risk of unplanned demand for hospital-based care. The collection, processing and storage of this sensitive information are of paramount concern. To this end, the varied solutions offered by tenderers to develop the risk stratification tool have necessitated unforeseen and additional effort on behalf of the Department to clarify and ensure their compliance with relevant Australian privacy and security laws.

The Department of Health's website has been, and will continue to be updated.