

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000461

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** 10 PHN Mental Health Lead Sites

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** O'Neill, Deborah

**Question:**

How will these sites and other programs, in particular the Health Care Homes trial, work together given they both have mental health as a priority, are looking to engage with GPs and aiming to achieve similar outcomes? Is there any duplication occurring between PHN lead sites and sites for the Health Care Homes, that is will any sites be both PHN lead sites and Health Care Home trial sites?

**Answer:**

The Health Care Homes trial and the Primary Health Network (PHN) Mental Health Lead Sites are separate initiatives with clearly defined objectives and methodologies. They will run in parallel and both contribute to an improved understanding of how to most effectively provide health services.

The ten PHN lead sites will focus on mental health service planning and integration, stepped care, low intensity services and services for youth with or at risk of severe mental illness. The sites will also consider the impact of patient outcomes when participating GP practices provide additional supports and health services to those patients with severe and complex mental illness.

GP practices participating in the PHN Mental Health Lead sites will have access to the MBS, whereas the Health Care Homes trial provides a bundled payment to cover the costs of the care coordination.

Patients included in the PHN Mental Health Lead Sites initiative must have mental health issues, which may be acute or chronic. During the initial stages Health Care Homes services will be limited to Medicare eligible patients with two or more complex or chronic conditions that may include mental illness.

Three of the mental health lead sites PHNs will also be involved in the Health Care Homes initiative. These are Brisbane North PHN, South Eastern Melbourne PHN and Tasmania PHN.