

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000495

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Ice

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

What steps have been taken to ensure consistency in tender processes across PHNs?

Answer:

Procurement is a key element of the commissioning process. As part of its national support function for the PHN program, the Department of Health has provided guidance, resources and training for PHNs to support them in their commissioning role. These materials include guidance on PHN needs assessment, guidance and resources on PHN planning in a commissioning environment, and guidance on designing and contracting services. These materials are publicly available on the Department's PHN website at www.health.gov.au/PHN under 'Tools and Resources'.

Tender processes used by PHNs may differ, depending on their population needs and the nature of the primary health care service provider market in their respective regions. PHNs have identified their priorities through a process of rigorous planning, stakeholder consultation and engagement, data analysis, and review of existing services and the workforce market. Each PHN has identified unique regional priorities for its commissioning and integration activities.