

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000508

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Practice Incentives Programs

Type of Question: Hansard Page 121, 1 March 2017

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: But, surely, it should not be a choice. That is what the organisations are asking for—that is, it is not a choice but a requirement that cultural training is undertaken.

Ms Cole: At the moment, my understanding is—and I will come back to you on notice to confirm this—that only if you claim that PIP do you have that requirement. So what we are suggesting is that, by moving to this overarching quality improvement PIP, you may well be able to encourage more practices to undertake that kind of quality improvement activity, which, as you say, all practices should do. The other way to address this very issue that you are talking about is to look at the accreditation requirements long run. That may actually be a more effective way of addressing the issue that you are raising.

Answer:

To be eligible to participate in the Practice Incentives Program (PIP), a general practice must be accredited or registered for accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) *Standards for general practices*. The current 4th Edition Standards (Criterion 2.1.1) requires all general practices to provide respectful and culturally appropriate care for patients. While the Standards detail opportunities for cultural awareness training they do not require that it must be undertaken to meet this criterion.

Within the current PIP program the Indigenous Health Incentive Payment is the only one of 11 incentives that requires cultural training. Participating practices must ensure at least two staff members from the practice (one must be a GP) complete appropriate cultural awareness training within 12 months of the practice signing on to the incentive.