

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000354

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Transition to Primary Health Networks

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

**Senator:** Wright, Penny

**Question:**

Please provide a copy of the agreed timeline for the transition from Medicare Locals to Primary Health Networks.

**Answer:**

On 13 May 2015 the Transition Period commenced.

The Medicare Local Transition Plan, a single plan relating to all activities undertaken by Medicare Locals, was provided to Primary Health Networks as soon as they were announced, to commence transition discussions.

On 1 June 2015 Medicare Locals commenced notification to patients of changes to health services.

On 15 June 2015 Medicare Locals submitted draft Claims Determination Schedules, which detail the costs incurred by a Medicare Local due to the termination of the Medicare Local programme.

In June 2015 Medicare Locals sought advice from Primary Health Networks on which assets, IP and third party contracts they require, and to begin transfer where applicable.

On 1 July 2015 Primary Health Networks became operational.

On 31 July 2015 Medicare Locals are to provide a final Claims Determination Schedule to the Department of Health.

In August/September 2015 the Department will reconcile payments due under the final Claims Determination Schedule against payment made based on draft Claims Determination Schedule. A final payment will be made to Medicare Locals or a recovery of excess amounts.

On 30 September 2015 Medicare Local Final Reports due for each Programme Schedule. Transition period will be complete.