

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000570

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Primary Health Networks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

What experience do the successful PHN tenders have in managing Aboriginal health program funds? What measures are in place to ensure compliance?

Answer:

The Primary Health Networks (PHNs) Invitation to Apply comprised a rigorous merit based selection process against four key criteria. Of particular note are sub-criteria that address managing Aboriginal health programme funding.

Applicants were also subject to a thorough financial viability assessment undertaken by an external consultant.

Many of the successful PHNs are companies formed by, or partnered with, Medicare Locals and private organisations including universities, private health insurers and health care providers. These organisations demonstrated significant experience and capacity in delivery of Aboriginal health programmes.

PHNs have signed the department's standard funding agreement with detailed compliance obligations in both financial and health care delivery contexts. The department has an ongoing monitoring role to ensure that these obligations are met.