

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000576

OUTCOME: 5 - Primary Health Care

Topic: Primary Health Networks

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

What level of consultation has taken place with the Community Controlled Health Sector as PHN policy has developed? What consultative forums are in place for ongoing engagement with the Sector as the roll out occurs?

Answer:

The Department of Health provided information on the establishment of Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). This communication will continue in the establishment year (2015-16) and beyond.

PHNs will be informed at a regional level by GP-led Clinical Councils and Community Advisory Committees. These governance structures will provide a direct link between the PHN Board, clinicians and community representatives to ensure decision making is focused on the health needs of communities within PHN boundaries.

While GP-led, Clinical Councils will comprise other health professionals that could include pharmacists, allied health and community health practitioners, Aboriginal Health Workers, specialists and hospital representatives.

PHNs will have broad engagement across their regions including with Local Hospital Networks, public and private hospitals, Aboriginal Medical Services, nurses, allied health providers, health training coordinators, state and territory government health services, aged care providers and private health insurers.