

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000580

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Health Networks

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

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

In the first 12 months of operation, how will PHNs ensure service delivery continuity as if focuses on establishment and undertaking health assessments and planning?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health worked closely with Medicare Locals to establish service transition plans that have been provided to Primary Health Networks (PHNs). It is expected that Medicare Locals and PHNs will work cooperatively during the transition period to minimise the impact on patients and health professionals.

As specified in the *Primary Health Network Grant Programme Guidelines*, in 2015-16 programmes currently managed by Medicare Locals that are in scope for transfer to PHNs will be maintained through comparable funding arrangements, to ensure continuity of service in the establishment phase.