

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-047

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: GP ASSIST TASMANIA AND TAS MEDICARE LOCAL

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Bushby

Question:

Would the Minister confirm that Medicare Locals are able to make their own decisions on after-hours care service models and providers, or if not, clarify the instructions Medicare Locals operate under.

Answer:

Medicare Locals will be responsible for the funding support for the provision of face-to-face comprehensive after hours services from 1 July 2013 in accordance with the Medicare Locals Operational Guidelines September 2012 and the requirements of their Deed of Funding. The aim of this program is to improve access to after hours primary health care services for all Australians, regardless of where they live. Medicare Locals planning must draw upon community needs assessments, and utilise existing state and national infrastructure to further support and enhance after hours service provision.