

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001264

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Senate Inquiry into the Out-of-Pocket Costs in Australian Healthcare

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

How does the Department respond to the recent senate inquiry into the out-of-pocket costs in Australian healthcare that suggested that alternative models of primary health care delivery offer the means to secure the efficiency and innovation necessary to achieve long term sustainability in the sector? Evidence suggests the potential of multidisciplinary teams to achieve cost saving and better health outcomes by focusing on prevention as well as ongoing management of chronic conditions.

In the area of primary health care there are opportunities for reform in a number of areas that include examining models for remuneration of GP services as well as alternative models of primary healthcare service delivery to assess the benefit of incorporating a more prominent role for allied health professionals.

Answer:

The Department of Health made a submission to the Committee and appeared before the Committee to answer questions.