

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001275

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Prostate Nurses

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Bilyk, Catryna

Question:

- a) How were sites for prostate cancer specialist nurses locations determined?
- b) By federal electorate how many prostate cancer nurses are there?
- c) Was the Prostate Cancer nurse funding designed to assist close the gap between survival rates in the cities and the country?

Answer:

- a) The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia undertook an open and competitive Expression of Interest process. Each application was reviewed and merited against selection criteria which included the requirement to clearly demonstrate:
 - significant prostate cancer incidence in locale or health service area; and
 - evidence of existing clinical services for men with prostate cancer or established links to a treating centre not provided by the host health service provider.

Efforts were made to ensure good geographic spread of nurses, taking into account the location of the existing nurses (funded by the Movember Foundation) and the new Commonwealth-funded nurses.

- b) There are 14 Commonwealth-funded prostate cancer nurses, based at hospitals in the following federal electorates: Forrest, Boothby, Dunkley, Ballarat, Corio, Gellibrand, Mallee, Bennelong, Barton, Lyne, Calare, Leichhardt, Capricornia and Griffith. Each nurse receives referrals from surrounding and nearby federal electorates.
- c) The Prostate Cancer Nurses programme was designed to provide greater coordination of care and services, and support to men diagnosed with prostate cancer and their families.