

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000711

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** Primary Healthcare Networks

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

Can you detail the budgets for primary healthcare networks and their scope of practice?

**Answer:**

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) currently receive three funding streams:

- Operational - supports the operations and maintenance of PHNs including: premises, governance, board, core staff, and office administrative costs.
- Flexible - enables PHNs to respond to identified national priorities as determined by Government, and to respond to PHN specific priorities by purchasing/commissioning required services.
- Programme – supports a specific range of services and initiatives including for after hours, mental health, Indigenous health and health workforce.

The Department of Health provides funding for these streams as in the table below:

Funding stream	2015-2016 \$ (GST excl)	2016-2017 \$ (GST excl)	2017-2018 \$ (GST excl)
Operational	114,950,800.00	116,904,963.10	119,009,252.94
Flexible	157,359,317.72	170,117,317.72	173,179,429.44
Programme	353,070,305.54	64,894,744.10 <sup>1</sup>	0.00 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>625,380,423.26</b>	<b>351,917,024.92</b>	<b>292,188,682.38</b>

<sup>1</sup>Mental health and indigenous schedule funding has not yet been committed pending the outcome of the Mental Health Review and review of some Indigenous specific programmes.

<sup>2</sup>After hours, mental health and indigenous schedule funding has not yet been committed pending the outcome of the After Hours Review, Mental Health Review and review of some Indigenous specific programmes.