

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000430

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** PHNs [Drug Services]

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 93, 19 October 2016

**Senator:** Bilyk, Catryna

**Question:**

Senator Nash: And in answer to that, I absolutely agree with you that it is important we get this money out. We actually, though, want to make sure it is well targeted. I absolutely agree with you about the importance of this to the community, which is why the coalition government came up with \$300 million to address it and the Labor government had not given a dollar to it. We want to make sure it happens properly.

Senator BILYK: On notice, can we get a list of the areas that are ready to roll and that have got money. If I understand correctly, you said that everyone should be ready to roll by January. So maybe I could get the commencement dates for those areas as well.

Ms McGlynn: We can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Funding Agreements between the Department of Health and all 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) for the *PHN Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program* for the period of 2016-17 to 2018-19 were executed between April and May 2016. Funding to PHNs commenced on 1 July 2016.

As at 23 November 2016, the Department has approved all 31 PHN Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activity Work Plans.

PHNs are progressing commissioning and entering into contracts with drug and alcohol treatment service providers. The Department expects that PHNs will have commissioned drug and alcohol treatment providers commencing service delivery no later than 1 January 2017 with some already providing services. It is important that these services are planned and evidence based and integrated into local communities based on need.