

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000486

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: 24-hour Doctor Service in Mount Barker

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

Will the Government consider contributing any additional funding towards a 24-hour doctor service in Mount Barker, one of South Australia's fastest growing regional towns?

Answer:

Australian Government funding for general practices to provide after hours services is available through:

- a Practice Incentives Program (PIP) after hours incentive payment available to eligible accredited general practices registered for the PIP; and
- funding to 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to address gaps in after hours service delivery and provide locally tailored after hours solutions that do not duplicate the PIP after hours incentive.

The Government also funds the after hours GP advice and support line which provides GP telephone support to Australians who do not have access to face-to-face GP services in the after hours period.

More broadly, the Rural General Practice Grants Program (RGPGP) will be funded from 2016-17 to 2017-18 to deliver improved rural health services and healthy living education through additional infrastructure in rural communities. Applications for funding should be for existing general practices operating from existing premises and must be in areas covered by the Modified Monash Model classifications MM2 to MM7 only.

A number of general practices in Mount Barker, already receive support to offer after hours services either through the PIP after hours incentive or through the Country SA Primary Health Network. Further information would be required in order to respond to any specific funding request.