

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS20

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Opening of Medicare office in Warrawong, New South Wales

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SENATOR FIERRAVANTI-WELLS asked on 22/02/2008:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—but there is a Medicare office and a Centrelink office, and you are going to merge the two into one. So you are going to give effect—

Senator Ludwig—No, that is incorrect. They are not merged—that is your language that you used. I am talking about expansion of both Medicare and Centrelink into both Warrawong and, I am now informed, Emerald.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—All right, Minister. We will differ on the language, but could you take that on notice and also take on notice whether there are any other areas where there will be an ‘expansion’, to use your words, as opposed to a closure.

Senator Ludwig—Thank you. I will.

Answer:

Emerald and Warrawong do not currently have Medicare Offices. The Government will assess the expansion of services on a location by location basis, matching services to community needs.