

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-203

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL HEALTHCARE AGREEMENT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

How much of the funding under National Healthcare Agreement for subacute hospital beds, elective surgery and emergency departments has gone to regional, rural and remote areas?

Answer:

The National Healthcare Agreement (NHA) is a statement of mutually agreed objectives, outcomes and outputs. It contains no funding schedules. This means there is no expenditure attributable directly to regional and remote areas from the NHA.

However, the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Improving Public Hospital Services does include funding schedules for subacute, elective surgery and emergency departments. The allocation of this funding is determined by states and territories according to Implementation Plans (IPs) provided to the Commonwealth for approval. Currently over \$55m in state and territories' approved proposed projects is specifically located in Australian Standard Geographical Classification – Remoteness Area Classes 3-5 (Outer Regional to Very Remote).