

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-114

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: SUBACUTE BEDS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

What mechanisms are being used to ensure equitable distribution of Palliative Care funds on a population needs basis?

Answer:

The Australian Government has provided \$500 million through the National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform to increase access to subacute care services in hospitals and in the community nationally over the period 2009-10 to 2012-13. Palliative care services are one of the funded subacute care types.

The Australian Government is providing a further \$1.6 billion over the period 2010-11 to 2013-14 under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services for states and territories to deliver a further 1,316 subacute care beds and community-based services over the life of the Agreement.

In addition, the National Palliative Care Program has funded a range of projects which have benefited all Australians by improving access to quality palliative care.