

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-115

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: SUBACUTE BEDS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

What is being done to ensure that all Queenslanders have adequate access to specialist palliative care services, where ever they live?

Answer:

The Australian Government has provided \$97.265 million to Queensland through the National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform to increase access to subacute care services in hospitals and in the community from 2009-10 to 2012-13. Palliative care services are one of the funded subacute care types.

The Australian Government is providing a further \$327 million to Queensland over the period 2010-11 to 2013-14 under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services for Queensland to deliver a further 265 subacute care beds and community-based services over the life of the Agreement.

Under these Agreements the states and territories determine the delivery and distribution of subacute beds and services according to local need and can apply Australian Government funds in accordance with these needs.

In addition, the National Palliative Care Program has funded a range of projects which have benefited Queenslanders by improving access to quality palliative care. These include two national projects managed by the Queensland University of Technology to coordinate the delivery of the following:

- Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach which arranges placements in specialist palliative care services for generalist health care professionals; and
- Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates project which promotes the inclusion of palliative care education as an integral part of all medical, nursing and allied health undergraduate training and ongoing professional development.