

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-544

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: CARER STRATEGY

Hansard Page: CA 73

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you take on notice and table the stakeholder engagement that there has been in regards to the development of the carer strategy?

Answer:

The National Carer Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed from extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders.

Between October and December 2010 the Department of Health and Ageing and the Department of Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs held twenty workshops in capital cities and regional areas around Australia.

Nearly 380 representatives from state governments, key peak carer bodies, advocacy organisations and service providers from the community care, aged care, disability, mental health, primary health and the palliative care systems attended workshops which contributed to the development of the Strategy.

The Commonwealth also funded Carers Australia and Children with Disabilities Australia to conduct workshops with carers. These workshops were held between October and December 2010.

Provision was made for stakeholders unable to attend a face to face workshop to lodge a written submission. Three hundred and one submissions were received – 70 per cent from carers, 30 per cent other stakeholders.

The Commonwealth has been engaging state and territory governments through relevant Ministerial Councils and their official working groups and committees in the development of the Strategy.