

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-547

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: PALLIATIVE CARE

Hansard Page: CA 89

Senator Boyce asked:

There was an announcement of \$8.6 million for palliative care support and services, and most of that, as I understand it, is to go to fund equipment loan schemes.

Could you give me a state-by-state breakdown of those schemes?

Answer:

On 26 May 2011 the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced a total of \$8.6 million in palliative care funding.

This funding is made up to two components:

- \$5.6 million in grants being offered to 81 local groups, church and charitable hospices and health and aged care providers under Round 6 of the Local Palliative Care Grants Program. A list of the organisations being offered funding under this grants round can be found at www.health.gov.au/palliativecare; and
- \$3 million provided to Palliative Care Australia to auspice a Palliative Care Equipment Loans Scheme through the eight state and territory palliative care organisations that form its membership.

The funding provided to Palliative Care Australia and its eight state and territory member organisations will be used for the purchase of palliative care aids and equipment that will be made available to be loaned to palliative care clients and their families and carers.

This funding will be distributed on a population basis, coupled with a flat foundation fee to ensure that the smaller states and territories have a reasonable baseline with which to provide equipment to members of their community in need.

Each of the Palliative Care Australia member organisations' is currently developing a business plan for the use and expenditure of these funds.