

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-256

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND INFORMATION

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) What services are affected by this fall in funding from projected figures to actual (will be hospitals etc).
- b) Why was there a fall in the actual payment? Population is not falling and according to the AIHW and COAG reform council elective surgery waiting times have increased since 2007, so demand for hospital services is increasing not falling- what justifies the reduction in payments that were proposed?
- c) When were the final payments made?

Answer:

- a) The Commonwealth is not in a position to advise on which services may be affected by the 2011-12 Final Budget Outcome and the 2012-13 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) variations in Commonwealth funding. It is a decision for states as system managers as to how they manage these variations in the context of their own expenditure on health services.
- b) The determination of the National Healthcare SPP final outcome for 2011-12 is based on the agreed arrangements contained in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. The 2011 population figure has been determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on the basis of the 2011 Census methodology which the ABS revised between the 2006 and 2011 Census. The population data used in the MYEFO variations is now based on the most up to date and accurate information available.
- c) Commonwealth payments are made on a monthly basis into the National Health Funding Pool, in accordance with the National Health Reform Agreement. The residual adjustment relating to 2011-12 is expected to be paid through National Health Reform Funding in December 2012.