Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13- 142

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Palliative Care Programs

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley

Question:

a)   There are a number of programs funded by the Commonwealth under the National Palliative Care Program. These include the core funding for Palliative Care Australia, the National Standards and Assessment Program (NSAP), CareSearch, Palliative Care Outcomes Collaborative (PCOC), Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U), and Program of Experience in a Palliative Approach (PEPA). The contracts (mostly three years) for all of these major programs expire on June 30, 2014. PCOC's 3 year contract expired on 30 June, 2013, and instead of negotiating a further three years, the Department negotiated a single year contract only, bringing that program into the same timing as the others. It would be greatly appreciated by the palliative care community, and ultimately by the Australian community, to have reassurance that appropriate levels of increased funding have been budgeted and planned to accommodate the increasing demands upon these programs. Is the Coalition committed to these programs?

b)   [If yes] How does it intend to accommodate the necessary bulge in the budget from July 2014? [If no] What other progress measures are being implemented to tackling palliative care issues?

c)   What areas of palliative care will the Minister for Health, the Minister for Social Services, the Assistant Minister for Social Services and the Parliamentary Secretary for Social Services be responsible for?

Answer:

a)   This is a decision for the Government.

b)   Not applicable.

c)   The Assistant Minister for Health, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash, is responsible for matters relating to palliative care under the division of portfolio ministerial responsibilities.