

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 5

**Question No:** 98

**Topic:** Young People in Nursing Homes

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Currently people under 65 in residential aged care (and in fact people over 65 as well) are ineligible for all state and territory aids and equipment schemes except for Tasmania. This has been identified as a key gap for younger people in aged care who cannot get the customised equipment they need, including wheelchairs/shower chairs etc, as well as pressure care mattresses essential to preventing pressure ulcers. What is the Department doing in regard to this issue and what work has it done with the states/territories to resolve it?

**Answer:**

At the 10 February 2006 Council of Australian Government's meeting, it was agreed that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments jointly fund and develop a \$244 million initiative over five years aimed at achieving the reduction in the number of younger people with disability (aged less than 65 years) living in residential aged care. The Commonwealth contributed \$122 million to the Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) initiative during 2006-11.

The AIHW reported that in 2009-10 a total of 943 clients were assisted through the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) initiative. Services provided under YPIRAC included assistive products and technology, accommodation and community support, respite and transportation.

Funding for the YPIRAC initiative is now included as part of the National Disability Specific Purpose Payment. Funding is therefore ongoing and is now part of the National Disability Agreement. The National Disability Agreement includes the highest ever level of indexation for disability services, at 6.3 per cent for 2011-12. This funding is guaranteed into the future, and will continue to grow in line with the generous indexation arrangements outlined.

State and territory governments have responsibility under the National Disability Agreement for the provision of specialist disability services including the YPIRAC initiative and aids and equipment more generally. Under the National Disability Agreement, work is being undertaken on the reform priority for more consistent access to aids and equipment by the end of 2012 including portability arrangements, the supply of equipment, review of current subsidy/co-contribution arrangements and assessment and prescription processes.