

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: 94

Topic: Young people in nursing homes

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

In 2009 the AIHW reported that the under 50 group (the target group of the YPIRAC initiative) comprised only 10% of the total group of residents under 65 in residential aged care. What role has the Department played in the YPIRAC initiative and how does the residential aged care program meet the needs of those people who found themselves outside the YPIRAC target group?

Answer:

At the 10 February 2006 Council of Australian Governments meeting, it was agreed that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments jointly fund and develop an initiative aimed at achieving a reduction in the number of younger people with disability (aged less than 65 years) living in residential care. The Australian Government has invested \$122 million over five years to June 2011 into the initiative through the National Disability Agreement, which provides matched funding to the states and territories. This funding is 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% for 2011-12. This funding is guaranteed into the future, and will continue to grow in line with the indexation arrangements outlined.

A new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (published 21 July 2011) has found that the Australian Government's investment into an initiative to reduce the number of young people with disability in residential aged care has made important progress toward delivering more appropriate care for young people with disability. The report said that the number of people in nursing homes under 50 years had reduced from 1,007 in July 2006 to 715 in June 2010 – a 29 per cent drop.

Under the National Disability Agreement, state and territory governments have primary responsibility for the provision of specialist disability services for people under 65 years of age, or 50 years for Indigenous Australians.