

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-179

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL PRICING AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierranvanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the National Pricing Authority, please advise the number of staff allocated to the authority, including SES and non-SES staff?

Answer:

To date no staff have been allocated to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA).

The final organisational structure and staffing will be determined by the Chief Executive Officer of the IHPA, within the resources available to it.

Original budget estimates were on the basis of 42 full-time equivalent staff once the IHPA is fully operational. This is more than offset by reductions in the number of staff across the Department of Health and Ageing.

An interim IHPA was established by the Governor-General in Council on 17 August 2011, with effect from 1 September 2011. The interim IHPA has been allocated 42 staff from within the allocated budget, a proportion of who have been or will be seconded directly from the Department of Health and Ageing.