

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-348

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: 'BED' DEFINITION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to evidence given at page 114, what is the current definition of a "bed" as far as the Commonwealth is concerned? (Refer page 114, Hansard 31 May)

Answer:

For subacute care, under the new subacute beds initiative of the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Hospital Services, there is a commitment to deliver and operate over 1,300 new subacute beds or bed equivalents, in hospitals and in the community. A nationally consistent subacute measurement method has now been agreed by the Commonwealth, states and territories. The method enables measurement of subacute services being delivered outside of admitted hospital care.

For overnight admitted care, an available bed is defined as: *“The number of beds available to provide overnight accommodation for patients (other than neonatal cots (non-special-care) and beds occupied by hospital-in-the-home patients), averaged over the counting period.”* [National Health Data Dictionary (NHDD), Version 15, 2010].

For same day admitted care, an available bed is defined as: *“The number of beds, chairs or trolleys available to provide accommodation for same-day patients averaged over a counting period.”* [NHDD, Version 15, 2010].