

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-365

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: YOUNG PEOPLE IN NURSING HOMES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Siewert asked:

What systemic impacts of having young people in residential aged care have been identified by the Aged Care Program and what can it do in its own funding and policy arrangement to address these? These may include:

- a) risks to YPINH and aged care providers of poor health outcomes - eg pressure ulcers
- b) bed blockages
- c) the need for improved staff training to deal with the younger cohort.

Answer:

a), b) and c)

Less than four per cent of permanent residential aged care recipients were under 65 years of age at the end of 2009-10, and these people are entitled to the same quality of care as other aged care residents.

For the majority of younger people with disability, it is more appropriate for them to be supported through specialist disability services than through aged care services. However, younger people with disability are eligible for services provided under the *Aged Care Act 1997* if they are approved for those services by an Aged Care Assessment Team and where there are no other more appropriate care facilities or services able to meet the person's needs.

As part of the National Health Reforms, COAG, with exception of Victoria and Western Australia, agreed that from 1 July 2011 states and territories are responsible for funding the provision of care and accommodation services to people under the age of 65 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under the age 50 years, regardless of where they are receiving care.

In addition to meeting the costs of aged care services to this client group, state and territory governments will continue to be responsible for providing any additional support over and above that provided through the aged care program.