

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-043

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITY OF DEMENTIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

It appears that the Government is not serious about recognising Dementia as a National Health priority. Having been the first country in the world to recognise the condition, it difficult to understand why a committed Government would make no provision for it in this year's Budget. Will the Department detail how much money will be lost from the current Initiative and in which areas, and what will be the effect in practical terms to Dementia sufferers and any research programmes which are in progress.

Answer:

The 2011-12 Budget does make provision to support people with dementia and their families and carers. Support includes provision of \$8.3 billion for the care of people in aged care homes, of whom around 52 per cent have a diagnosis of dementia, and support for people to stay in their own homes, including through Extended Aged Care at Home packages and respite care.

Funding is also provided to improve service delivery, promote awareness of dementia, provide information and access to support services, education and training, and research into dementia.

The level of funding for these dementia programs and activities has not been reduced in this year's Budget. All agreements for these programs will continue in 2011-12, with major programs funded until June 2013.

The National Health and Medical Research Council has a central role in research funding. From July 2011, its work will include oversight of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres. The Dementia Research Grants program will also continue.