

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-059

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: REAL-TIME DATA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bushby asked:

Information relating to allocation of bed licences and community packages using real-time data – To what extent is the Department's allocation of bed licences and community packages taking account of real-time data on the building of retirement villages and other post-retirement living options? Is the allocation based only on census data which is a snapshot in time that is quickly outdated, or does it include other information and, if so, what information?

Answer:

Each year, new aged care places are made available for allocation in each state and territory, having regard to the national planning benchmark, population projections provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the level of current and future service provision. Aged Care Planning Advisory Committees also provide advice on the number, distribution and targeting of places in each state and territory.

The current national planning benchmark is 113 places per 1,000 people aged 70 years and over. These 113 places should ultimately comprise a residential component of 88 places and 25 community care places. Across both residential and community care settings, the aim is to achieve a balance of 48 high care and 65 low care places.

As part of the process for determining the number of places available each year, the Department of Health and Ageing takes into account factors such as the:

- number of operational places and places allocated but not yet operational;
- time taken for allocated residential and community care places to become operational;
- likely mix of care level (eg between high care and low care); and
- likely take up rate of the places offered.

The building of retirement villages is not specifically taken into account.