

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-117

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: QUEENSLAND FUNDING UNDER THE NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Under the National Palliative Care Program, Queensland received \$8.3 million in funding to support community palliative care programs.

How much money via this program is currently being provided to the Queensland Government to support the provision of community palliative care in Queensland?

Answer:

The National Palliative Care Program does not provide funding to Queensland, or any other state or territory, for the provision of community palliative care services.

The Australian Government does not directly fund palliative care services, but does provide financial assistance to state and territory governments to operate such services as part of their health and community service provision responsibilities.

Through the subacute care component of the National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform, the Australian Government provided \$500 million in June 2009 to expand states and territories' provision of subacute care, including palliative care, over the period 2009-10 to 2012-13.

The Australian Government has committed a further \$1.623 billion over the four years 2010-11 to 2013-14 through the subacute care element of the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services, for states and territories to deliver and operate at least 1,300 new subacute care beds and equivalent community-based services nationally, including for palliative care.

The National Palliative Care Program funds a range of national initiatives to ensure quality palliative care and to improve access to services for people who are dying and their family. These projects include research, improving palliative care education and training, promoting advance care planning and the documentation of end of life health care wishes, and grants to help local groups, church and charitable hospices and health and aged care providers to better provide support to people requiring palliative care and their families in their communities.