

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-156

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Written Questions on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Does the Government think domestic violence support services in regional, rural and remote areas are currently adequate? Note: It's well acknowledged that they aren't so why not reinvest any administrative efficiencies into more domestic violence savings? The budget says that the savings of \$12.2 million "will be redirected to support other Government priorities."

Answer:

The Domestic Violence Referral Points Project will be redesigned to improve targeting, realise synergies with other domestic violence activities currently administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), provide greater flexibility in the way that incentives are provided and expand the range of health professionals who are eligible to provide domestic violence referral services.

The redesign, together with consolidation of administrative responsibility within a single agency, will result in efficiencies of \$12.2 million over 4 years while increasing the number of services provided in regional, rural and remote areas and supporting the aims of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.