

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-433

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: RESEARCH STUDY ON STAFFING LEVELS, SKILLS MIX AND RESIDENT CARE NEEDS IN AUSTRALIAN AGED CARE FACILITIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

In the 2010-11 Budget, \$0.5 million was allocated to conduct a research study on staffing levels, skills mix and resident care needs in Australian aged care facilities.

- a) Who is undertaking the study?
- b) What are the terms of reference of the study?
- c) When was the study put out to tender? If it was not put out to tender, why not?
- d) Is there a reference group to guide and support the study? Who are the members of any such group?
- e) When will the study be released?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Nursing Federation (ANF)
- b) The scope of the project includes the following:
 - establishing a dataset to support analysis of the skill sets of aged care workers (from registered nurses through to personal care workers) used to meet different resident profiles in the residential aged care sector;
 - identifying and examining a range of variables and strategies that enable different skills sets including: innovative models of care; the use of assistive technologies; strategies relevant to the needs of remote workers; and the use of supportive information technology solutions; and
 - undertaking research including a review of literature and reports into care needs, staffing profiles and quality outcomes in residential care environments.
- c) The study was not put out to tender. The ANF is receiving a funding grant to support a range of development work in this area, in consultation with other stakeholders. As the national peak body representing the nursing profession in Australia the ANF have an established track record in research relating to the nursing profession.

- d) The Aged Care Workforce Committee will be the expert reference group for the project. This Committee is the primary consultation mechanism for the Department of Health and Ageing on aged care workforce issues. The Committee's membership includes sector peak bodies, professional associations, unions, government agencies and consumer representation.
- e) The release of materials produced as part of this project will be an issue for consideration by the Government, in consultation with the ANF.