

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-00436

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: ALLOCATION OF FUNDS (EXPANSION OF RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE VIABILITY SUPPLEMENT)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Would the Department please outline what criteria will be used to determine the allocation of the new funds (\$7.7 million) to services?
- b) How many services are expected to benefit?
- c) How many will be specialist homeless services?
- d) What assumptions underlie the budget estimate?

Answer:

- a) The 2011-12 Budget announced \$16 million for the Continuation and Expansion of the Residential Aged Care Viability Supplement, including \$7.7 million to extend the supplement to those aged care homes identified as facing pressures in transitioning to the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI). This includes homes that specialise in low care services in outer regional and remote areas; and those providing access to homeless and Indigenous Australians with complex behavioural needs. The Department has been developing the details of the criteria to be applied in determining the eligibility of homes for this initiative in consultation with providers, clinical experts and the Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness.
- b) It is expected that somewhere in the order of 70 aged care homes may benefit from this element of the Budget initiative.
- c) The Department anticipates that somewhere in the order of 50 services specialising in caring for residents with care needs associated with homelessness, including a number of specialist Indigenous services, could benefit from this element of the Budget initiative.
- d) The estimated cost was modelled by the Department, taking into account a range of factors including the number of homes recognised as specialising in homelessness through the Aged Care Allocation Round; local knowledge gathered by the Department through its state and territory offices on specialist homeless and Indigenous services; and data on the location, size, occupancy and resident profile of these homes.