

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

**Question:** E12-022

**OUTCOME 1: Population Health**

**Topic:** Palliative Care

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Boyce

**Question:**

Could you please advise what federal funding palliative care has received over the last 10 years in real terms, ie taking into account inflation and also the increase in population?

**Answer:**

Australian Government funding provided specifically for palliative care over the period 2002-03 to 2011-12 inclusive totalled \$506.9 million in real terms (2011-12 dollars).

This total includes funding for states and territories for palliative care over the six years from 2003-04 to 2008-09 under the 2003-08 Australian Health Care Agreements and the 2008-09 Health Care Determinations. No funding specifically for palliative care was included in previous or subsequent agreements but states and territories are able to use subacute care funding provided by the Australian Government for public hospital services to meet a range of needs, including palliative care, in support of the National Healthcare Agreement.

The total also includes National Palliative Care Program funding and subsidies provided for palliative care drugs and consultations through the Medicare Benefits Schedule and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

The figure does not include Australian Government funding for drugs, services or projects that assist people with palliative care needs but which do not have an exclusively palliative care purpose or focus.