

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: E12-023

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: The Dementia Initiative and the Reform Package

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Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

As part of the 2012-13 Budget the Government announced a new package of \$268 million over 5 years to tackle dementia.

- a) Does this package build on the existing funding which was provided through the Dementia Initiative?
- b) Does the Government intend to continue to fund the major components of the dementia initiative over the period of the forward estimates for the next 3 years including:
 - Dementia Research Grants
 - Dementia Collaborative Research Centres
 - Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service
 - Dementia Training Study Centres
 - Community Support and Service Development Grants
 - Dementia Care Essentials
 - National Dementia Support Program

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) As part of the 2011-12 Budget, responsibility for dementia research grants and Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (DCRC) was transferred from the Department of Health and Ageing to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Funding agreements for DCRCs are currently in place to June 2013. The NHMRC has established a review committee to identify future strategies for the continued functions of the DCRCs, as well as the most appropriate funding arrangements.

As part of the 2011-12 Budget, funding for Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services (DBMAS), Dementia Training Study Centres, community support grants and the National Dementia Support Program (NDSP) was included as part of the establishment of the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants

Fund with funding agreements in place until June 2013. The Fund covers six priority areas, including funding for activities that respond to existing and emerging challenges, including dementia care. Funding for dementia activities is provided through the Fund, with funding rounds conducted annually. As part of the *Living Longer Living Better* aged care reform package, funding for DBMAS and NDSP was increased.

Also as part of the establishment of flexible Funds in the 2011-12 Budget, funding for the Dementia Care Essentials initiative was included as part of the Aged Care Workforce Fund with funding agreements in place until June 2013. As part of the *Living Longer Living Better* aged care reform package, the Government will provide \$1.2 billion over five years to tackle critical shortages in the aged care workforce.