

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: E12-230

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Access and Equity - Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

How will the Department ensure that Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Australians don't miss out in the recently released \$3.7 billion Aged Care Package?

Answer:

The Australian Government recognises the importance of different cultural values and is committed to delivering aged care that is appropriate to all older people by ensuring those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds can access and benefit from the same funding and services as other older people in the community.

Through the *Living Longer Living Better* aged care reform package, the Government is expanding support for people with diverse needs to enable them to better access information and support from aged care providers who are more aware of as well as more responsive and sensitive to their needs.

Specifically, \$24.4 million over five years is being made available to assist older Australians with diverse needs, their families and carers to access information and aged care services that are sensitive to their backgrounds. This will include staff training, information sharing and access to expert assistance, with particular focus on the needs of people from CALD backgrounds.

This funding is on top of current initiatives, which include a projected \$35 million over five years to support people from CALD backgrounds to access information about aged care services and translation and interpreting services.

The funding is being made available through the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants Fund (the Fund). The second open competitive funding round will commence in the second half of 2012 and will be advertised on the Department of Health and Ageing's website at www.health.gov.au via the Tenders and Grants link.

Organisations will have the opportunity to apply for funding through the annual funding process which will include as appropriate initiatives announced as part of the aged care reform package.

The Department is communicating regularly with the CALD sector to ensure the sector is aware of when the next funding round will be open for applications.

FECCA has been funded through the Fund to deliver the National CALD Network (the Network) project to June 2015. This will significantly build FECCA's capacity to represent the CALD community and organisations supporting CALD people, through the establishment of the Network, bringing together the many and separate services and organisations currently working with, or providing services to, the ageing CALD community. Furthermore FECCA will be working to build capacity in CALD organisations seeking to develop proposals for Government funding for aged care projects. FECCA will provide support and advice to these organisations to improve the level of success of tenders and applications submitted through the Fund. Additionally, FECCA will be able to provide government with an effective conduit for consumer perspectives and information sharing on aged care issues relevant to the CALD community.

In addition, on 8 June 2012 the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced the development of a CALD Aged Care Strategy, which will be developed by the end of the year.