

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 -236

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: National Health Priority Areas

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

On what basis is funding allocated to each of the national health priority areas? What efforts are made by the Department to assess the level of need across each of the national health priority areas?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing does not attribute expenditure against the National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs) on a program-by-program basis, and as such does not have a criteria for allocating that expenditure.

Most Commonwealth expenditure on programs addressing NHPAs is channelled as treatment subsidies via the Medical Benefits Schedule and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule, as transfer payments to the states and territories for hospitals, preventive and community health, and as subsidies for private health insurance expenditure relating to an NHPA via the Private Health Insurance rebate. (Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice E12-234 for more information.)