

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-223

OUTCOME: 8 - Indigenous Health

Topic: Update on Renal Initiatives

Type of Question: Hansard Page 40, 7 June 2013

Senator: Siewert

Question:

Senator Siewert "I appreciate this will take a larger answer, but could you provide an update on initiatives that have been announced. There have been other announcements made around end-stage kidney disease and providing chairs around the rest of Australia. Could you provide us with an update about where the implementation of those programs are up to. Over the previous two budgets I think- or two years ago- there was funding provided for accommodation, for example, in Western Australia and for the provision of additional chairs. Perhaps you could take that on-"

Could you provide an update on end-stage kidney disease initiatives that have been announced including where they are up to?

Answer:

The following infrastructure projects that support renal dialysis service delivery have been completed.

Northern Territory Renal Access Program (\$5.345 million since 2006-07)

- Renal ready rooms at Lake Nash, Barunga and Maningrida;
- Mobile dialysis bus, Central Australia;
- Drop-in self-care renal facilities at Darwin and Alice Springs; and
- Multi-media renal educational resources.

Community Based Haemodialysis Program (\$2.19 million since 2006-07)

- Relocatable haemodialysis units at Ti Tree, Ali Curung, Millingimbi, Ngukurr, Amoonguna and Ntaria.

OATSIH Capital Works renal project (\$8.9 million in 2010-11)

- Purchase of accommodation for renal dialysis staff in Broome, Derby and Kununurra.

Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Payantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT) (\$0.874 million since 2005-06)

- Vehicles, equipment, minor capital works and accreditation assistance.

Health and Hospitals Fund

- Expansion of renal dialysis services in Kimberley region \$8.60 million. The project is complete. The Derby site commenced operations on 6 May 2013, and the Kununurra site commenced operations 21 May 2013.

The following infrastructure projects that support renal dialysis service delivery are currently underway.

Health and Hospitals Fund

- Bringing Renal Dialysis and Support Services Closer to Home - \$45.77 million for expansion of 10 small and regional hospitals; patient accommodation, renal support services; and training for home haemodialysis patients in Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields and Midwest. The negotiations with the Western Australian Government for the \$45.77 million project "Bringing Renal Dialysis and Support Services Closer to Home" are continuing. The Department expects that the agreement will be executed in 2013-14;
- Renal Dialysis Unit Expansion from 6 to 12 chairs at St John of God Hospital in Bunbury Western Australia for \$2.55 million. The funding agreement with St John of God Hospital was executed on 4 June 2013. The Reverse Osmosis Unit is expected to be installed in October 2013 and construction of the expanded unit is expected to commence in March 2014.

Australian Government funding for hospital services (including dialysis)

New financing arrangements for public hospital services, including dialysis services, were agreed by the Council of Australian Governments in the August 2011 National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA). These arrangements came into effect on 1 July 2012. Under the NHRA, the majority of Commonwealth funding for public hospital services is now provided under Activity Based Funding arrangements, based on a National Efficient Price (NEP) determined by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority.

From 2014-15, Commonwealth public hospital funding will be uncapped, and funding will vary in response to changes in activity and the cost of public hospital services as represented through the NEP. From 2014-15 to 2016-17 the Commonwealth will pay 45 per cent of the NEP for growth in the volume of services relative to the previous year, increasing to 50 per cent of the NEP from 2017-18.

Loadings will be applied to the NEP services provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from rural and remote areas.