

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-12, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-130

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

TOPIC: NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

It has been said in the media that it will take two years for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to be reinstated once it is re-funded, can you give an indication of how long it will take the Program to start inviting people again?

Answer:

Invitations to Australians turning 50, 55 and 65 years of age from 1 January 2011 will commence in early July 2011. The invitation schedule, developed by the Department in consultation with Medicare Australia, state and territory governments and contracted service providers, will then progressively invite all eligible Australians to participate in the continuation of the Program.