

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-533

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: NATIONAL MINIMUM DATA SET DEFINITION OF A 'HOSPITAL BED'

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Senator Boyce asked:

What is the definition of a 'hospital bed' in the AIHW's National Minimum Data Sets?

Answer:

The Public Hospital Establishments National Minimum Data Set for 2009–10 requires states and territories to provide data on the average number of beds available for admitted patients. Separate counts are required for beds to provide overnight accommodation for patients and beds to provide accommodation exclusively or predominantly for same-day admitted patients (that is, patients who are admitted and discharged from hospital on the same date).

An available bed is defined as a suitably located and equipped bed, chair, trolley or cot where the necessary financial and human resources are provided for admitted patient care. Both occupied and unoccupied beds are included in the count.

The definition excludes: surgical tables, recovery trolleys, delivery beds, discharge lounges for patients who have been formally discharged, medi-hotel beds, neonatal cots (non-special-care), hospital-in-the home beds, and beds exclusively or predominantly for non-admitted patients (for example, emergency trolleys) or residential care.