

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-371

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: NATIONAL RESPITE FOR CARERS PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fifield asked:

- a) What is the forecast expenditure over the forward estimates?
- b) What is the average cost of providing each respite service?
- c) What is the range of cost for providing respite services?
- d) What is the average length of each respite service?

Answer:

- a) Expenditure on the National Respite for Carers Program in 2010-11 is an estimated \$198.3 million. This includes funding for more than 650 respite services across Australia, as well as a network of 54 Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres which provide information about community services, and emergency/short term respite for carers so that carers and care recipients can have a break from their usual caring. Funding for the National Respite for Carers Program is provided from the ordinary annual services funding in Program 4.4 Community Care. Funding for this is an estimated \$4.9 billion over the next four years.
- b) In 2009-10, the average cost across the 650 respite providers of a respite service was \$24.72 per hour.
- c) The Department does not collect data on the range of cost for providing respite services.
- d) An average of 10 hours per week of respite care was provided to carers/care recipients in 2008.¹

¹ The 2008 Community Care Census, Department of Health and Ageing 2008