

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30 May 2011

Question: E11-000543

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (ACAP)

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Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide more information in terms of what those (assessment) tools go to which demonstrate that it is on the basis of the person's individual capacity as to whether they have a disability or whether it is through the frailties of ageing.

Answer:

The Aged Care Assessment Program Toolkit for Assessors includes a set of validated, assessment tools appropriate for use by Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessors in the comprehensive assessment of frail, older people.

Core assessment instruments are those which assess functional domains. These domains are relevant to every ACAT assessment and include cognitive function, activities of daily living (ADL) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) functional skill assessments. The core assessment tools for cognitive and physical domains to be used in every ACAT assessment are as follows:

Cognition

- **Standardised Mini Mental State Examination (SMMSE)** (Molloy)

OR

- Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS) - for people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (can also be used for people with low socio-economic status or low literacy levels);
- Kimberley Indigenous Cognitive Assessment (KICA) - for Indigenous people living in rural or remote areas;
- Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQ Code) – as an alternative to SMMSE where a client is unable to participate.

Activities of Daily Living

- **Modified Barthel Index (Collin and Wade)**

OR

- KICA-ADL for Indigenous people living in rural or remote areas

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living

- **OARS-IADL items**

Other assessment instruments are recommended for follow up or a more in-depth assessment if the relevant screening question identifies that a client may have a potential problem, in the following areas:

Falls	Vision	Depression
Environmental assessment	Hearing	Behaviours of Concern
Pain	Communication	Delirium
Feeding and Swallowing	Continence	Loneliness and help availability
Nutrition	Sleep	Neglect/abuse
Dental and Oral Health	Lifestyle and health behaviours	Recent stressors
Foot condition	Self reported health status	Carer referral
Skin Condition	Decision Making Capability (capacity)	

Where a person screens positively to one of the questions, the assessor can consider using the appropriate follow up tool or refer the person for specialist or medical assessment.