

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-011

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON IMPROVING PUBLIC HOSPITAL SERVICES ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS THAT ENSURE THE STATES AND TERRITORIES ARE IMPLEMENTING THE MENTAL HEALTH ASPECTS OF THE COAG AGREEMENT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Wright asked:

- a) What accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure that states are implementing the mental health aspect of the agreement.
- b) For example do states/territories report back to the Commonwealth regarding the allocation of funds.

Answer:

- a) Under the subacute element of the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services (NPA IPHS), states and territories are required to specify the planned number and distribution of subacute beds and bed equivalents (including any subacute mental health and psychogeriatric beds and bed equivalents) in their Commonwealth-approved Implementation Plans. States and territories are also required to provide half yearly progress reports against these Plans to the Commonwealth (refer to b).
- b) Yes. Under the subacute element of the NPA IPHS, the states and territories are required to report to the Commonwealth on the planned allocation of funds on a project basis in their Implementation Plans. In addition the states and territories are required to provide half yearly reports to the Commonwealth on the actual allocation of funds against projects in their Implementation Plans.