

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-111

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE IN VICTORIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Abetz asked:

- a) What are the Department's long-term plans to ensure that HACC remains a sustainable service in Victoria, particularly for small rural councils such as Buloke Shire?
- b) How is the Department working with the Victorian Government?

Answer:

The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program in Victoria continues to be jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments. Under these arrangements, the Commonwealth provides approximately 60 per cent of funding with the Victorian Government providing the balance of funding.

While the Commonwealth has policy responsibility for HACC and supports the state to expand the program by providing real growth funding, the Victorian Government has responsibility for delivery of the HACC Program through the allocation of resources to HACC service providers, including many small rural councils, through its planning processes. This includes developing appropriate state policy and planning processes to ensure sustainable and accessible HACC services.

Under the National Health Reform Agreement, from 2012–13 the Commonwealth will take full funding, policy, management and delivery responsibility for a consistent and unified aged care system covering basic home care through to residential care, in most states and territories. These changes do not apply to Victoria, where basic community care services will continue to be delivered under the HACC Program as it currently exists, until otherwise agreed.

The HACC Review Agreement requires that a review of arrangements under the agreement be undertaken in the fifth year. Accordingly, a review of HACC business processes in Victoria will be undertaken by the Department of Health and Ageing in partnership with the Victorian government, in the first half of 2012.

The Government will continue to work with Victoria with a view to creating a nationally consistent aged care system that builds on best practice across jurisdictions.