

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-129

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

In the last Aged Care Approvals Round announced in December, 10,493 residential aged care beds were available; however, only 7,933 bed licences have been allocated - an under subscription of 2,560 places.

- a) What is the Department doing to remedy the shortfall in the uptakes of licences?
- b) How is the Department encouraging providers to build more aged care facilities?
- c) Where are senior Australians going to live as there's an under supply of aged care facilities?
- d) What is the projected shortfall of beds over the next five years?
- e) The electorates of Flynn, Petrie and Capricornia did not receive any beds in the last round. Did any aged care facilities apply for beds in those electorates? Is there a demand for beds in those electorates?

Answer:

a) to d)

On 20 April 2012, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced a comprehensive aged care reform package, Living Longer Living Better, in response to the Productivity Commission's final report, Caring for Older Australians.

The Living Longer Living Better package provides \$3.7 billion over five years. It encompasses a 10 year reform program to create a flexible and seamless system that provides older Australians with more choice, control and easier access to a full range of services, where they want it and when they need.

The national aged care planning ratio will be increased from 113 to 125 aged care places per 1,000 people aged 70 years and over.

Over the next five years, the number of operational residential care places will increase from around 190,000 places to more than 220,000 places across Australia.

In recognition that elderly Australians would prefer to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, the Government is committing \$880 million over the next five years to expand care in home. Over this period, the number of operational Home Care packages will increase by nearly 40,000 to around 100,000 packages across Australia.

The Government is also reforming aged care financing arrangements to give aged care providers the certainty they need, so that more aged care facilities can be built and existing facilities can be refurbished.

The Government will continue the viability supplement that is paid to aged care providers in regional, rural and remote areas.

From July 2014, the maximum level of the accommodation supplement will be increased from \$32.58 to \$52.84 per day. The increased accommodation supplement will apply to aged care homes that are built or significantly refurbished from 20 April 2012.

- e) The Department of Health and Ageing does not assess demand for aged care places on an electorate basis. However, a total of 2,300 new residential care places were advertised across Queensland in the 2011 Aged Care Approvals Round. Providers were invited to apply for new places in all aged care planning regions in Queensland.

Across the aged care planning regions of Mackay, Fitzroy and Wide Bay, which broadly cover the electorates of Capricornia, Flynn and Hinkler, there were two applications seeking a total of 92 residential care places. In the Cabool aged care planning region, which includes the electorate of Petrie, plus parts of other electorates, there were five applications seeking a total of 323 residential care places.