

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-145

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: PALLIATIVE CARE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) Are you aware that the Queensland Government has allocated monies on an ad hoc basis to palliative care but there have been no announcements therefore no-one has any idea of who has received what?
- b) What will the Commonwealth do to remedy this as there has been no transparency in the allocation of monies?
- c) What methods does the Commonwealth use to hold the Queensland State Government accountable that funding goes to where it says its allocated to?

Answer:

- a) and b)
Queensland, in common with other states and territories, is obliged to allocate funds provided under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services (NPA IPHS) in accordance with its Commonwealth-approved Implementation Plan, which sets out the specific projects to be funded. Some of Queensland's palliative care projects have been publicly announced such as 10 new palliative care beds at Queen Elizabeth 11 Hospital in Brisbane in August 2010. Approved state and territory Implementation Plans will be made publicly available in 2012 on the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations website.
- c) The states and territories are required to report to the Commonwealth in accordance with paragraphs E22 to E35 of the NPA IPHS. Among other things, these provisions require each state and territory to provide half-yearly progress reports against each project set out in its approved Implementation Plan. Where agreed targets are not fully met the subsequent annual payment may be adjusted to reflect the degree of performance achieved in the previous annual period.