

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-320

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE AND POPULATION AGEING

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the Cultural Diversity Framework, please advise:

- a) When was the current framework was first implemented
- b) What data basis was used in the formulation of the current framework
- c) How is it auspiced around Australia
- d) Any plans to review or update the framework

Answer:

a) to c)

The Australian Government recognises the importance of different cultural values and is committed to delivering aged care that is appropriate to all Australians. The *Aged Care Act 1997* and the Aged Care Principles designate certain people as people with special needs, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

On 20 April 2012, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, unveiled the Living longer Living Better aged care reform package. It will build a better, fairer, sustainable and nationally consistent aged care system to meet the social and economic challenges of the nation's ageing population.

In delivering aged care reform, the Government will consult with groups representing people with diverse needs to assess the requirement for development of further tools and/or strategies to support their needs within the aged care setting.

Consultations with groups representing the diversity of people with special needs will help ensure that aged care programs are responsive to this diversity, consistent with Australia's human rights obligations.

These consultations will include aged care providers and will seek to emphasise the need to more firmly embed responsiveness to diversity in the delivery of aged care services and ensuring that assessment processes and tools are appropriate.

- d) Older people seeking to access aged care services are increasingly from diverse backgrounds. Aged care services need to be sensitive to the diverse needs and backgrounds of individuals when delivering care and support.

As part of the aged care reform package, the Government is expanding support for people with diverse needs to enable them to better access information and support from aged care providers who are more aware of and responsive to their needs.

The Government will provide \$192.0 million over five years to better support older Australians from diverse backgrounds to access aged care services.

Specifically, the Government will provide \$24.4 million to assist older Australians with diverse needs, their families and carers to access information and aged care services that are sensitive to their backgrounds. People who will be supported include those from CALD backgrounds; people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless; people who are care leavers; and people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

Grants to support people from diverse backgrounds to access aged care services will be made available from 2012-13.

This funding is on top of current initiatives, which include a projected \$35 million over five years to support people from CALD backgrounds to access information about aged care services and translation and interpreting services.