

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 545

Topic: Remote, Rural and Regional

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

What will the Government do to support remote, rural and regional communities where facilities are inadequate, ageing and no longer fit for purpose? Or in some cases, non-existent?

Answer:

Capital grants are allocated through a competitive assessment process to providers that have a demonstrated lack of capacity to construct new, or refurbish existing, aged care facilities. \$51 million dollars was allocated in 2012/13 with priority given to facilities in remote, rural and regional areas and to services that cater for special need groups.

As part of the aged care reforms, the Government will increase its contribution towards the accommodation costs of care recipients with limited resources, by increasing the accommodation supplement payable for care recipients of residential aged care facilities that were newly built or significantly refurbished on or after 20 April 2012. The higher accommodation supplement will be payable from 1 July 2014 and will increase from \$33.55 per day currently, to \$52.49.