

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000055

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

**Topic:** Palliative Care

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Gallagher, Katy

**Question:**

- a) Has the Government responded to the Community Affairs References Committee Palliative Care Senate Inquiry.
- b) Has any assessment of the operation of Better Access to Palliative Care project been undertaken.
- c) Has the project led to cost savings compared to in-hospital palliative care, if so what was the saving per person.

**Answer:**

- a) The Government Response to the Community Affairs Reference Committee Palliative Care Senate Inquiry is being considered and will be provided in due course.
- b) Under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Health Services in Tasmania, the Commonwealth was required to commission and fund an independent evaluation of the activities, outcomes and outputs of the Better Access to Palliative Care Programme (BAPC Programme). The Commonwealth appointed Australian Healthcare Associates to conduct the evaluation of the BAPC Programme in June 2013 under the Department's Deed of Standing Offer. The evaluation is designed to assess the appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the BAPC Programme, and identify issues of sustainability and viability. A Final Evaluation Report is due in July 2016.
- c) A key element of the evaluation being conducted by AHA is the analysis of cost effectiveness of the BAPC Programme. It is expected that the cost savings of the programme as compared to in-hospital palliative care will be included as part of the Final Evaluation Report due in July 2016.