

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000112

OUTCOME: 11 – Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Dementia

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

What is the status of the timely diagnosis and acute care funding initiatives from the 2012 aged care reform budget? Please provide detail of how the \$39.2 million to improve hospital care for people with dementia and the \$41.3 million to improve timely diagnosis has been allocated?

Answer:

Funding for the acute care and timely diagnosis priorities is included in the new Dementia and Aged Care Services (DACS) Fund.

Projects funded to date through the *Improving acute care services for people with dementia* initiative are:

- the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health's examination of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards as they relate to the care of people with cognitive impairment and promoting the Standards as they relate to the care of people with cognitive impairment through the development of a series of resources. These resources, '*A better way to care: Safe and high-quality care for patients with cognitive impairment (dementia and delirium) in hospital*', launched November 2014, will guide hospital staff in the care and management of people with dementia in acute care.
- Ballarat Health Service's national trial of the '*Dementia Care in Hospitals Program*' (the program). The program aims to improve acute care outcomes for people with cognitive impairment through the use of a visual bedside alert symbol called the cognitive impairment identifier symbol and includes training for hospital staff on appropriate care for patients with cognitive impairment.
- Alzheimer's Australia NSW's project known as '*Insights into the Hospital Dementia Experience (Dementia Experiential Learning Guide & Facilitators Toolkit for Hospital and multi-purpose services (MPS) care settings)*'. The aim of this project is to build a dementia-specific experiential learning program and toolkit for hospital educators to deliver to staff within a hospital setting or multi-purpose service site, and pilot a minimum of six train-the-trainer workshops (inclusive of regional and rural areas).

- Centacare Managers Incorporated's project known as '*Recovery and Dementia project*' (RAD). The aim of this project is to deliver an innovative sustainable recovery-oriented model of care that will positively affect people living with dementia, their carers and family across critical areas of the NSW Riverina region; with particular attention on CALD and Indigenous communities and people living with younger onset dementia.
- Queensland University of Technology's project known as '*Cogchamps: Using Cognition Champions to embed a new model of care for hospitalised older patients with cognitive impairment*'. This project aims to improve the quality of care for people with dementia when admitted to an acute hospital by targeting delirium. Nurses will be trained to accurately identify and document delirium amongst older in-patients, particularly those with dementia, which is a key risk factor for the development of delirium. The Queensland University of Technology will oversee the development and implementation of a Train the trainer education and training program.
- Southern NSW Local Health District's project known as '*A person centred volunteer programme to improve the care and outcomes for older people with dementia and/or delirium in acute settings*'. The aim of this project is to recruit and train volunteers to provide one-to-one practical assistance and emotional support for people with dementia and/or delirium admitted to rural and regional hospitals. The project will replicate the program across seven Southern NSW Local Health District hospitals (Moruya, Batemans Bay, Goulburn, Crookwell, Yass, Cooma and Queanbeyan).

Projects funded to date through the *Timely diagnosis of dementia* initiative are:

- Alzheimer's Australia's project known as '*Supporting GPs and practice nurses in the timely diagnosis of dementia*' to improve timely diagnosis of dementia by delivering accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training on dementia assessment, diagnosis and management to 6,000 GPs and 2,500 Practice Nurses (PNs) throughout Australia.
- General Practice Training Tasmania's project known as '*Dementia Care Training and Education Programme*'. This project aims to deliver tailored and quality training and education programs in dementia care to a range of stakeholder groups including Tasmanian overseas trained doctors in primary care settings and Practice Nurses in primary care settings.