

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 3 June 2011

Question: E11-463

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REFERRAL POINTS

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Senator Adams asked:

How will the transferring of the domestic violence referral points project in DoHA to anti-domestic violence programs in FaHCSIA result in efficiencies of \$12.2 million?

Answer:

The Domestic Violence Referral Points Project is a joint initiative of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

The Project provides education and training for practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers in rural and remote areas to help them feel more confident about recognising domestic violence and acting as points of referral to support services for women experiencing domestic violence. Eligibility for participation in the training is currently limited to practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers employed in practices that are registered for the Practice Incentives Program. This requirement has restricted potential uptake, and the Project has consistently been underspent.

The Project will be redesigned to improve targeting, realise synergies with other domestic violence activities currently administered by FaHCSIA, provide greater flexibility in the way that incentives are provided and expand the range of health professionals who are eligible to provide domestic violence referral services.

The redesign, together with consolidation of administrative responsibility within a single agency, will result in efficiencies of \$12.2 million over 4 years while increasing the number of services provided and supporting the aims of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.