

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-12, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-045

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NATIONAL BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) The Government has claimed in this Budget that the ongoing costs are to a continuous Programme. Could the Department outline the processes that the Programme has gone through in the period since 1 January 2011, including any “wind down” procedures for this Programme?
- b) What is the projected life of this Programme as predicted by the Department?
- c) Can the Department provide the participation numbers of the Programme between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2010?
- d) Can the Department provide the participation numbers of the Programme between 1 January 2011 and 1 June 2011?

Answers:

- a) The Department continued to invite eligible Australians (from the 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2010 cohort) to participate in Phase 2 of the Program until 30 June 2011. All services and contractual arrangements for the Program remained in place up to 30 June 2011. There have been no “wind down” procedures.
- b) The Program is ongoing.
- c) From 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, approximately 590,000 eligible Australians were invited to participate in the Program and approximately 247,800 people (42 per cent) returned a test kit.
- d) From 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011, approximately 250,000 eligible Australians were invited to participate in the Program and approximately 132,500 people (53 per cent) returned a test kit.