

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-058

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: ALLOCATION OF BED LICENCES AND COMMUNITY CARE PACKAGES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Bushby asked:

The Productivity Commission's Draft Report "Caring for Older Australians" recommends a freeing up of the allocation of bed licences and community care packages. Currently the process of applying for and gaining licences and packages is a tortuous one for providers – which may come to nothing if an application is unsuccessful.

- a) What consideration has the Department given to allowing more rapid meeting of existing or emerging community needs, such as freeing up the process of converting existing bed licences to packages?
- b) What obstacles stand in the way of doing this?

Answer:

- a) The Department continually monitors the outcomes of the Aged Care Approvals Round and related processes to determine the extent to which the current arrangements are meeting the objective of the *Aged Care Act 1997* (Section 2-1(1)(i) to plan effectively for the delivery of aged care services that:
 - promote the targeting of services to areas of the greatest need and people with the greatest need; and
 - avoid duplication of those services; and
 - improve the integration of the planning and delivery of aged care services with the planning and delivery of related health and community services.
- b) The Department addressed these issues in its two submissions to the Productivity Commission inquiry into aged care, which can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/aged-care/submissions>