

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 31 May 2011

Question: E11-060

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

TOPIC: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RADIATION DOSE REGISTER

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Senator Ludlam asked:

I am interested to know how far back you are intending to go and how far back the datasets go that you are going to be able to incorporate?

Answer:

The current advice is that the presently-operating mines have dose data back to the beginnings of their operations, which is to the very early 1980s for Ranger and late 1980s for Olympic Dam. Beverley data presently uploaded goes back almost 10 years.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency is endeavouring to obtain the complete datasets in the Australian National Radiation Dose Register (ANRDR) despite significant logistical difficulties resulting from changes to IT systems over the last three decades. These IT changes mean that some earlier data will only be available in paper format which will need to be manually entered. Consequently, ARPANSA's initial objective is to obtain the last five years of data for all mines as this period will permit full comparison with the applicable dose limits. Data for this time period will also enable testing of the dose register system, both for ARPANSA, and for the mine site radiation safety officers who have to enter their data in the correct format and upload it to the ANRDR portal. Our intention is that once this phase is successfully implemented and any technical issues which may arise have been overcome, we would request that earlier data be uploaded.