

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-118

OUTCOME 10: Health Systems Capacity and Quality

Topic: SUBACUTE BEDS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

Given that referrals to specialist palliative care in some areas of Queensland increase by as much as 25% per year, is it likely that there will be a commensurate shift to the funding of this program in Queensland?

Answer:

Under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services (NPA) Queensland has the flexibility to determine the mix of service types and regional distribution of beds and services that will best meet the needs of the state. Queensland is required to actively engage with relevant sectors, including the palliative care sector, in the development of its Implementation Plan and throughout the NPA period.

There is provision in the NPA for Queensland to review its Implementation Plan annually to take account of changing population needs relating to service delivery, subject to Commonwealth approval.