

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-338

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: Cessation of the *Expand access to multi-purpose services* initiative

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Questions:

- a) Can the Department advise how many subacute beds will not be funded now as a result of this funding cut?
- b) Can the Department provide a breakdown of the number of subacute beds that won't be funded by State/Territory?
- c) Can the Department provide a breakdown of the number of subacute beds that won't be funded by ASGC-RA category?
- d) When did the Federal Government first indicate to State and Territory Governments that it would cut funding for this measure if negotiations became protracted and a partnership agreement could not be reached?
- e) Did the Government raise this possibility either through COAG, the Standing Council on Health, the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) or the Rural Health Standing Committee (RHSC)?
- f) Did the Government provide States and Territories with a deadline by which agreement must be reached or funding would be cut? If so, what was this deadline?
- g) Had any States or Territories indicated their intention to agree to a national partnership agreement prior to this budget announcement? If so, which States and Territories?
- h) At what stage was the negotiation process? What issues had the Commonwealth and States failed to agree upon?

Answer:

a) 286 beds.

b) Beds by state/territory:

NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	NT	AUS
92	30	38	65	50	10	1	286

(NOTE: the Australian Capital Territory has no multi-purpose services)

- c) No – the program would have required Implementation Plans from each of the jurisdictions had the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) been agreed to. As agreement was not reached, the Commonwealth has no information on the proposed location of the beds.
- d) All states and territories were aware that Commonwealth funding under this measure was contingent on finalisation of a National Partnership Agreement.
- e) No (see d)).
- f) No deadline was set by the Commonwealth.
- g) No.
- h) Negotiations were advanced. Despite protracted negotiations and concessions from the Commonwealth, some states were still reluctant to provide recurrent funding to staff and operate the facilities and accept reasonable reporting requirements.