

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: E12-093

OUTCOME 7: Hearing Services

Topic: Consistency with the National Disability Agreement

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question:

To what extent is the Hearing Services Act compliant with the National Disability Agreement as endorsed by COAG. Given that OHS focuses on device inputs while the NDA focuses on client outcomes, have you identified any areas of inconsistency? If yes, what are you doing to address those?

Answer:

The *Hearing Services Administration Act 1997* provides the legal framework for the Australian Government's Hearing Services Program (the Program). The Program supports the provision of hearing services to eligible voucher holders by contracted service providers. Services may include a comprehensive hearing assessment, assistive listening devices, rehabilitation programs, hearing aids and maintenance (repairs and batteries). The outcome of the hearing assessment/s determines the appropriate clinical treatment, and not all clients require hearing aids.

The Program shares the objective and outcomes of the National Disability Agreement in supporting eligible clients to maintain independence, economic participation and social inclusion and is an example of a mainstream service which complements specialist disability services.