

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-214

OUTCOME: 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Transition Care

Type of Question: Hansard Page 86, 5 June 2013

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Are the transition care monies that are going through the state hospital systems being tracked? So, if you could take that on notice to follow the money trail in relation to those places through the state systems?

Answer:

The Australian Government and states and territories jointly fund the Transition Care Program. Australian Government funding is provided in the form of flexible care subsidy under the *Aged Care Act 1997* (the Act).

State and territory governments, as the Approved Providers for Transition Care under the Act, operate Transition Care Services to deliver Transition Care. Some Transition Care Services engage 'Transition Care Service Providers' for the delivery of care. State and territory governments as the Approved Providers are eligible for flexible care subsidy for each day the Approved Provider provides care to a person who is approved to receive Transition Care.

Where a state or territory government operates a Transition Care Service through a subcontractor, the state or territory government as the Approved Provider remains eligible for the subsidy. However, it is possible for the Approved Provider to have the subsidy paid directly to the subcontractor. Arrangements vary between states and territories.

The daily flexible care subsidy for Transition Care is paid to Transition Care Services through a 'claim and advance payment cycle' managed by the Department of Human Services/Medicare Australia (DHS/MA) aged care payment system. The Transition Care Claim Form is sent to the Transition Care Service at the beginning of a payment period. This form has the details of existing recipients under the care of the service providers. It is the responsibility of the Transition Care Service to check this form for accuracy and record new data and changes relating to new admissions, discharges and transfers for their care for their care recipients. The Transition Care Claim Form includes the following data items for each care recipient:

- Date of admission;
- Date of departure;
- Discharge destination;
- Functional capacity score (Modified Barthel Index¹ score) on entry and exit;
- Number of days spent in community and/or residential setting; and
- Length of stay (derived from date of admission and date of departure).

¹ Measured using the Modified Barthel Index at entry to and exit from the Program. The Modified Barthel Index is a measure of activities of daily functioning, ranging from 0 (fully dependent) to 100 (fully independent).