

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 – 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000442

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Palliative Care Funding and Inquiry

Type of Question: Hansard Page 110, 2 June 2015

Senator: Siewert, Rachel and Moore, Clare

Question:

Dr Southern: The Department of Health is coordinating the Australian government response to the committee report, and it is currently with government for consideration.

Senator SIEWERT: Minister, that means that remains with you. How long has it been with the government?

Senator Nash: Could I take that on notice? We have so many at the moment and I would hate to give you the wrong date. Hopefully, it will be finalised in the not too distant future.

Senator MOORE: I want to follow up, Mr Bowles, on the issue of the acute care distribution. In the past there were funds given by the federal government to state governments and there was a range of areas they could spend it in; the Commonwealth could not tell them what to do. With the last big injection of funds, a lot of states went for rehabilitation programs rather than palliative care. Under the current system, can we find out how much states get for palliative care?

Mr Bowles: I can take it on notice to try to find out.

Answer:

The Government Response to the Community Affairs Reference Committee Palliative Care Senate Inquiry is being considered and will be provided in due course.

The Australian Government provides a funding contribution for services delivered in public hospitals. The states and territories, as system managers, have responsibility for the allocation of funding for public hospital services. Funding allocated is reported nationally under broad service categories (including subacute care). The Commonwealth is not able to quantify the amount states allocate for palliative care within the subacute care category.