

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000582

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Adult Public Dental Services

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 99, 29 May 2017

**Senator:** Singh, Lisa

**Question:**

Senator SINGH: I added all the figures up that are in that table, and that equated to \$321 million over three years. Then I compared that to Labor's 2012 MYEFO measure, which was \$391 million a year. That was what I wanted to confirm with you: I did the maths on that, and that equals a cut of almost \$300 million a year.

Mr Cormack: The figure that I am using is the maximum amount of Commonwealth money that went to the states and was spent by the states under a national partnership agreement: \$155 million is the high point. Irrespective of what may have been allocated in the past, what was actually committed to the states by virtue of national partnership agreements came to a high point of \$155 million. Over the next three years the amounts that are made available are for 2016-17 at \$104.5 million, 2017-18 at \$107.8 million and 2018-19 at \$107.8 million.

Senator SINGH: That is right. That is exactly right, but our 2012 MYEFO was \$391 million per year. I am trying to confirm with you—I have done the maths—that is a cut of around \$300 million.

Mr Bowles: We do not have your figure for 2012.

Senator SINGH: I can give it to you.

Mr Bowles: We can take that on notice, if that is what you wish, but the numbers in the budget are the numbers Mr Cormack read out for the NPA.

**Answer:**

The 2012 MYEFO decision allocated \$1.3 billion over four years under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Adult Public Dental Services commencing in 2014-15, but an NPA delivering this funding was never negotiated with states and territories.

Since 2012, the Commonwealth has provided \$573.2 million to the states under NPAs, with a further \$242.5 million available under the proposed NPA on Public Dental Services for Adults.