

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-001

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: HEALTH REFORM

Written Question on Notice

Senator Kroger asked:

- a) On March 3 this year the Federal Government announced “major structural reforms to Australia’s health and hospital system” that will result in and I quote “by taking the dominant funding role in the entire public hospital system the Australian Government will end the blame game, eliminate waste and shoulder the burden of funding to meet rapidly rising health costs.” Is this correct?
- b) Has this reform been made because vital treatments and services within the public health system are not being funded appropriately?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) The reforms are being made to ensure the health system can cope with the increasing demand for health services as the population ages and more people are living with chronic diseases, and to clarify the funding, policy and operational responsibilities of each level of government.