

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-049

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: CONTINENCE AIDS PAYMENT SCHEME

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fifield asked:

- a) Please provide an update on how the transition from the Continence Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS) to the new Continence Aids Payment Scheme has progressed?
- b) How many people are currently claiming from the CAAS?
- c) Does the Department expect to expend more or less money on the new scheme than the old scheme – i.e. do you expect the new arrangements to result in a net saving to the Commonwealth or not?

Answer:

- a) The transition of the CAAS to the Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS) is going well. Since 1 July 2010, people have been continuing to register for and transfer to the CAPS and payments are being made. At 31 October 2010, Medicare Australia has reported that 68,656 clients had registered to receive assistance under the CAPS. This includes some 60,000 clients who have chosen to transfer from the previous CAAS.

The Department is continuing to work with Medicare Australia to facilitate the transfer of verified CAAS clients to the CAPS and over the next few months will continue to provide information and support to assist people to finalise their transfer to the CAPS.

- b) As at 1 November 2010, Medicare Australia advise that there are 68,656 people registered to receive the CAPS. Of these people, 67,579 have received payment.
- c) Announced as a Budget Measure in the Federal Budget 2009, the CAPS will provide administrative savings over the next four years, as the Government will no longer pay administrative overheads for the provision and delivery of continence products through a sole provider.

Eligibility for the CAPS remains the same as it was under the previous CAAS.