

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-084

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITIES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

- a) A research paper in 2005 looking at the national health priority areas such as cancer control, injury prevention and control, cardiovascular health, diabetes mellitus, mental health, asthma, arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, which said that about 50 per cent of the health system's expenditure about \$22.3 billion went into those areas. That was in 2005, and it used data from earlier in the 2000s. Has that paper been updated?
- b) In terms of the list of health priority areas in the previous question, does the Department believe those proportions have remained roughly the same?
- c) Have you done any work that would allow you to look at those proportions?

Answer:

- a) A more recent report, *Health system expenditure on disease and injury in Australia 2004–05*, was published by the AIHW in April 2010.

b and c)

The proportion of health expenditure allocated to NHPAs was similar in the two reports. However it is important to note that there were a number of methodological differences in the more recent report compared with the earlier publication. In addition, 70% of total health expenditure has been allocated to diseases in this report, compared with 88% in the original report. For these reasons, comparisons should be treated with caution.

At this stage the AIHW intends to publish another disease expenditure report in 2011, dealing with health expenditure in 2008–09.