

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-133

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: BED LICENCES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

It's been claimed by the aged care industry that a sign of the lack of future building plans is evidenced by the hand back of aged care bed licences. What information does the Department collect on the reasons for such hand backs and what does that information show as to the reason for the return of bed licences?

Answer:

Aged care providers are not required to provide reasons for returning places, and as such, the Department can not systematically capture such information or analyse it.

Anecdotally, reasons can include:

- changes in provider priorities (for example either improving existing homes or developing other capital projects);
- that the places were no longer financially viable to build;
- lack of funds;
- planning issues;
- land problems (including difficulty in obtaining land or site problems); and
- potential certification issues if the development went ahead.