

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-137

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: PROSTATE HEALTH

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Senator Xenophon asked:

In terms of any funding for prostate cancer awareness and in terms of any programs to do with prostate cancer, could you take on notice whether programs are continuing as before, whether there has been any diminution of funding or any programs? And in terms of any funding for an (sic) ancillary organisations that provide that.

Answer:

The Government has funded a range of activities to address the burden of prostate cancer. Some of these activities are funded for a time limited period, while in other cases, such as research through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the level and duration of funding depends on the quality of proposals submitted by the research community.

Current Australian Government funded prostate cancer activity is set out below.

Prostate cancer research funding

- \$15 million over five years from 2008-09 has been committed by the Government for the establishment of two dedicated prostate cancer research centres to develop improved diagnostic tests, screening tools and treatments for prostate cancer. The Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre @Epworth is located in Victoria at the Epworth Hospital, Richmond, and the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-Queensland is located at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.
- The Government also funds research into prostate cancer through the NHMRC which provided more than \$10.9 million to prostate cancer research in 2009 with a further \$9.6 million currently committed to be expended on prostate cancer research in 2010.
- In addition, the Government is supporting prostate cancer research through its national cancer agency, Cancer Australia. Through the 2007 and 2008 rounds of the agency's Priority-Driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme (PdCCRS) Cancer Australia and three of its funding partners (Cancer Council Australia, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and the Department of Health and Ageing) currently fund six research projects, totalling over \$3.3 million, relating to prostate cancer. From the 2009 round of the PdCCRS, a further seven prostate cancer research projects worth a total \$3.3 million have been offered funding, commencing in 2010. Outcomes of the 2010 funding round of the PdCCRS are expected to be announced in late 2010.

- Cancer Australia also funds the Australian and New Zealand Urogenital and Prostate Cancer Trials Group to help build the capacity of the Group to conduct cancer clinical trials in prostate, testicular, bladder, renal and other urogenital cancers. Current funding is approximately \$0.697 million for the period June 2010 to December 2011.

Current support and awareness funding

- The Government has also provided funding of \$1.2 million in 2009-10 to Andrology Australia to support its focus on the prevention of men's sexual and reproductive health issues including prostate cancer.
- Through the Building Cancer Support Networks Initiative – 'Better Cancer Support Through Consumers', Cancer Australia and the PCFA are partnering to provide funding of \$80,000 for the 'Queensland Support Programs Project', to assist prostate cancer support groups across Queensland. The project runs from 21 January 2010 to 15 December 2011.

Recent support and awareness funding

National Men's Health Ambassador Speaker Program.

- The PCFA received Australian Government funding of \$700,000 through the National Continence Management Strategy to raise awareness in men as to the causes of poor bladder and bowel health through the National Men's Health Ambassador Speaking Program. The Program was funded for a time limited period from 11 June 2008 to 30 June 2010.
- The Men's Health Ambassador Speaker Program was a nationally focused initiative designed to raise awareness of men's continence by working with the community sector to provide effective messages about men's health.

Let's Go Men's Health Project

- The PCFA was also awarded a one-off grant of \$77,270 in October 2007, under the Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants Program (the Program), to develop the Men's eHealth Network website. The PCFA used the funds to engage the services of Vario Health Institute (Edith Cowan University) to develop the website. Grant recipients were aware that funding was one-off, and that funding for the Program would terminate on 30 June 2010.