

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-295

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: INDIGENOUS AGED CARE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the Indigenous Aged Care Plan, please advise:

- a) The progress of the Quality Framework for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care program.
- b) When will the Framework be released?
- c) Outline how aged care services will be more flexible.
- d) Outline how the parameters under which providers of flexible aged care services differ from other providers.

Answer:

- a) A draft Quality Framework has been developed following extensive consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flexible services. Five national workshops were held in September 2010 to familiarise flexible service providers with the provisions of the Standards and process in the draft Quality Framework. Pilot testing of the draft Framework will commence shortly.
- b) The Quality Framework was released as a draft for consultation in September 2010 and will now be piloted and refined prior to implementation in 2011.
- c) The term “flexible” in the context of the “National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program” relates to flexibility in the type of aged care services that can be delivered under the Program. Aged care services under this Program are able to vary the mix of residential and community aged care services to meet the changing care needs of the community.
- d) Aged care providers under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program are funded on an agreed allocation of places and not on the occupancy of those places, other providers are funded on the occupancy of the places. The Program is administered under a funding agreement rather than being regulated and receiving aged care subsidies under the *Aged Care Act 1997*.