

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-297

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: DEMENTIA

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the National Dementia Support Program, please advise:

- a) What organisations were considered as providers of this program and in particular, the National Dementia Helpline?
- b) What criteria was used to evaluate the provider of the program? Where is that criteria located? Please provide a copy.
- c) When does the funding agreement with Alzheimer's Australia expire?

Answer:

- a) A targeted funding round or competitive open process was not undertaken for the establishment of the National Dementia Support Program (NDSP). In July 2005, Alzheimer's Australia, as the peak body for dementia in Australia at the time, entered into a single Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth, which merged four dementia programs that had been managed by Alzheimer's Australia. This included the:
 - Dementia Education and Support Program;
 - Early Education Dementia Support and Respite Project;
 - Carers' Education and Workforce Training Project; and
 - National Dementia Behaviour Advisory Service

This was in line with recommendations in *A New Strategy for Community Care – The Way Forward* (2005). No other organisations were considered as providers for the NDSP, which includes the National Dementia Helpline, as longer term arrangements were to be reviewed in line with the implementation of the Dementia Initiative in 2006.

- b) In May 2006, following the announcement of the 2005 Budget Measure: *Dementia- a National Health Priority*, a funding extension was approved to continue the agreement with Alzheimer's Australia to deliver services under the NDSP. This approach was supported for continuity of seamless services for people with dementia, their families and carers and the community that supports them. It also provided greatest efficiency and value for money.

More recently, in May 2010, continuation of the NDSP was agreed and approval given for direct engagement of Alzheimer's Australia to deliver the program. This decision was

informed by the outcomes of the independent national evaluation of the Dementia Initiative.

The Evaluation examined the program's appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, quality, accessibility, impact on collaboration, sustainability and outcomes.

The evaluation found that the NDSP is a comprehensive, integrated suite of early intervention and support services that should continue. A copy of the evaluation is at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-dementia-evaluation>

- c) The project period of the funding agreement with Alzheimer's Australia for the National Dementia Support Program is until 30 June 2013. The completion date is 60 days after the final deliverable is received (29 December 2013).