

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-300

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: ZERO REAL INTEREST LOANS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) What was the criteria for consideration of each of the rounds for the zero interest loans?
- b) What was the basis for any changes to the criteria from Round 1 to subsequent rounds?

Answer:

- a) The criteria to determine eligibility for a zero real interest loan for the first two loans rounds were:
  - a good past conduct record as a provider of residential aged care;
  - a good past record in making places operational /developing new services in a timely manner;
  - sound financial viability of the applicant organisation;
  - a willingness to provide aged care services in the identified areas of high need;
  - a willingness to address any additional identified care needs, such as the provision of care for people with special needs; and
  - the ability to access a site suitable for the provision of aged care.

For the second loans round, the identified areas were expanded to allow aged care providers to apply for loans within any aged care planning region in Australia, where the provider proposed to specifically target care to culturally and linguistically diverse groups or for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders communities. Also, in identified areas of particular undersupply, providers were able to apply for a combination of a loan and a capital grant.

- b) To address potential gaps in service provision for culturally and linguistically diverse groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders communities, the eligibility criteria for the second round was expanded to include all areas in Australia for providers targeting care to these groups.