

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-343

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: MENTAL HEALTH

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

During the election campaign, the ALP released a mental health factsheet that stated "Labor will move towards providing greater funding and policy leadership for community mental health services over time. (Mental health: taking action to tackle suicide, ALP 27th July 2010).

- a) What scale of funding increase is envisioned?
- b) What timeframe is envisioned for achieving these goals?

Under the heading "Foundations for long term mental health reform" the same document also stated: "As part our investments in the National Health and Hospitals Network, the Labor Government is investing \$1.6 billion in providing 1300 sub-acute beds around the country which will help to provide more mental health beds.

- c) How many of these beds are mental health beds?
- d) When will these beds be available?

Answer:

a and b)

In April 2010, COAG agreed to undertake further work on the scope for additional mental health service reform for report back in 2011. The scale of future investments in mental health and timing of any progress in this regard are matters for Government.

- c) The \$1.6 billion investment in sub-acute care announced at COAG in April 2010 is designed to increase access to palliative care, rehabilitation, geriatric care (comprising geriatric evaluation and management and psychogeriatric care) and 'step up, step down' mental health care in hospital and community settings.

Jurisdictions, in consultation with sectors involved in the delivery of subacute care services, have the flexibility to identify the mix of service types and regional distribution of new subacute care beds that will best meet local needs. Details of the allocation of the new beds between service types forms part of state and territory implementation plans which are currently being submitted for Commonwealth approval.

- d) The COAG agreement provides for states and territories to deliver and operate at least 1,316 new subacute care beds nationally by 2013-14. The table below sets out the estimated distribution of new subacute beds to be established each year across jurisdictions.

The planned availability of beds over time is also expected to be included in the state and territory implementation plans.

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
2010-11	107	82	66	34	24	8	5	3	329
2011-12	215	163	133	67	49	15	11	7	660
2012-13	321	245	199	101	73	23	16	10	988
2013-14	428	326	265	135	97	30	21	14	1,316