

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-377

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: HEALTH AND HOSPITALS FUND (HHF)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) How was the assessment criteria devised?
- b) Who was responsible for making assessments and agreeing to funding?
- c) Was this a Departmental decision or did it require Ministerial sign off?
- d) Did the Minister intervene to prevent any applications from being funded, or intervene on behalf of any applications?
- e) Were applications assessed, given a score, and then ranked?
- f) Will the department provide a final copy that lists the scores of the applications?
- g) What was the process whereby one application was chosen over another?
- h) Obviously you have put together criteria, but how did you decide which applications best met that criteria?
- i) Is there documentation of how those decisions were made?

Answer:

- a) Please see response to question E10-113.
- b) Please see response to question E10-113.
- c) Please see response to question E10-113.
- d) Please see response to question E10-113.
- e) The HHF Advisory Board assessed whether or not applications met the HHF evaluation criteria and guiding principles. In making its assessments, the Board drew on advice from the Department, which employed a numerical scoring system, and in the case of the Regional Cancer Centre Round, on the advice of experts (see E10-113). The Department's scoring system reflected provisional assessments of the extent to which individual applications met or did not meet the evaluation criteria and guiding principles, and did not reflect competitive or allocative rankings.

- f) The final assessments of the Board were 'met' or 'did not meet' the evaluation criteria and guiding principles. No scoring or ranking was involved.
- g) Please see response to question E10-113.
- h) Please see response to question E10-113.
- i) Please see response to question E10-376.