

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-379

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: HEALTH AND HOSPITALS FUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) The list of successful applicants in rounds 1 and 2 shows a heavy bias towards public hospitals, why were they more successful?
- b) Was it the quality of their bids, or was there a deliberate effort to ensure that public hospitals were the successful bidders in the process at the expense of others? If so, why?
- c) If the Department so desired that public hospitals only, or predominantly be the recipients of such grants, do you not think it would have been helpful to communicate this with other applicants?

Answer:

- a) The data provided in response to question E10-082 indicates that in proportional terms there was no great disparity between the percentage of applications from public and private hospitals that were successful in receiving funding under Rounds 1 and 2.
- b) All applications were assessed on their individual merit.
- c) This is not the position of the Government in relation to the Health and Hospitals Fund.