

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-381

OUTCOME 10: Health System Capacity and Quality

Topic: HEALTH AND HOSPITALS FUND (HHF)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) How will round 3 applications, the regional priority round, be assessed?
- b) Some details are provided on pages 6 to 13 of the 'Funding Applications and Assessment Guidelines', but how will the department determine which applications best meet the criteria?
- c) Who will make that decision?
- d) Will government providers be prioritised over non-government providers, irrespective of the quality of the bid?
- e) Will there be some sort of scoring chart or matrix to assess bids?
- f) If so, on what basis was this devised, and has it been made available to applicants?
- g) And if so, after applications are assessed can you provide the scores of each application (successful and unsuccessful)?

Answer:

- a) Applications received under Round 3 will be assessed by the HHF Advisory Board against the HHF principles and evaluation criteria and Regional Priority Round additional guidance.
- b and c)  
The Department will not determine which applications best meet the criteria. This is the role of the HHF Advisory Board.
- d) Government providers will not be prioritised over non-government providers. Each application is assessed on its own individual merit.
- e) The HHF Advisory Board will assess whether or not applications meet the HHF evaluation criteria and guiding principles. In making its assessments, the Board will draw on advice from the Department, which employs a numerical scoring system, and on the advice of experts (see E10-113). The Department's scoring system reflects provisional assessments of the extent to which individual applications meet or do not meet the evaluation criteria and guiding principles, and will not reflect competitive or allocative rankings.

- f) The funding application and assessment guidelines for applicants explain the assessment process.
- g) No. As noted in the response to E10-377, the Board does not score the applications in the advice it provides to the Minister. All applicants will be advised in writing as to the outcome of the assessment process.