

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-384

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: HEALTH REFORM — SUBACUTE CARE BEDS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) How many of the additional 1300 hospital beds promised are operational?
- b) Where are they located?
- c) Are they fully funded by the Commonwealth or have states and territories contributed to the capital or recurrent costs?
- d) What is the average total capital and annual recurrent cost of a new acute care hospital bed?

Answer:

a) and b)

States and territories are required to report the location and operational status of the new subacute care beds in half-yearly reports under Schedule E to the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services ('the NPA'), the first of which are due on 28 February 2011. A complete answer cannot be provided until the receipt of those reports.

- c) The funds provided by the Commonwealth are to fully fund the capital and recurrent costs of the new beds for the period of the NPA (2010-11 to 2013-14).
- d) Capital costs vary greatly according to the type of care to be provided in a new bed, the location and size of the hospital and whether the bed is in a new hospital or an extension of an existing one.