

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-432

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BARIATRIC SURGERY REGISTER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Barnett asked:

The report on the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing's inquiry into obesity in Australia recommended that the Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Ageing develop a national register of bariatric surgery with the appropriate stakeholders. The register should capture data on the number of patients, the success of surgery and any possible complications. The data that is generated should be used to track the long-term success and cost effectiveness of bariatric surgery.

What steps is the government taking in response to that recommendation?

Answer:

The Australian Government agrees that it is important to increase our understanding of the long term effects of bariatric surgery. Establishing a national register of bariatric surgery would require a number of issues to be addressed including the location, governance and possible funding sources for the register, and the role of jurisdictions in the context of the current health reforms.