

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-436

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA NSW

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

I guess this is a question to Senator McLucas. I have put these concerns on the record. I am very concerned about the spokesperson for Alzheimer's Australia, New South Wales, former Deputy Premier John Watkins. He obviously wears a number of hats. I do not criticise the work that he does for Alzheimer's Australia, but the reality is he is a very politically active person. Does the government have any concerns in relation to giving funding to an organisation that is so visibly partisan political in New South Wales, not necessarily about its Alzheimer's aspects but about other issues? John Watkins is regularly on Sky News having a go for all sorts of reasons at, in particular, the coalition, and this organisation is getting a lot of money. There is, in my view, a potential conflict of interest. Do you have any comments in relation to that?

Answer:

Please refer to the Department's response to Question on Notice E10-426.