

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-147

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: CONVERSATIONS ON AGEING

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Senator Carol Brown asked:

Are you able to provide feedback as to what issues people are raising and whether they are the same sorts of issues being raised around the country?

Answer:

Issues and themes that have been consistently raised at the consultations to date include:

- palliative care and the right to die with dignity;
- workforce, the need for an increase in nursing staff, quality and training of staff and appropriate remuneration;
- monitoring and enforcement of penalties to help ensure the protection of elderly clients;
- the concept of an Aged Care Commissioner and interest in the scope of such a Commissioner's authority;
- fairness of the bonds system;
- the importance of an effective interface between aged care and disability systems;
- support for the proposed Productivity Commission's Gateway concept;
- the use of the family home to pay for care - clarity on the impact of the PC proposal;
- dementia rates increasing, the need for dementia support and care, including for the onset of dementia in younger people;
- cultural issues including language, interpreters, appropriate food and staff; and
- consideration of the care needs of specific groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex people.