

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-151

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: YOUNGER ONSET DEMENTIA

Hansard Page: CA 102

Senator Adams asked:

Did the Government take up a lot of the recommendations that came out of that summit?
What was the outcome of the summit?

Answer:

Alzheimer's Australia, with funding from the Australian Government, conducted a national summit on focusing on people with younger onset dementia in February 2009. The Summit identified a range of activities to support age-appropriate services for younger people with dementia and their carers. The Summit highlighted the need for programs to recognise the unique needs of people with younger onset dementia. The Summit made recommendations across a number of priority areas including increasing awareness, access to appropriate services, and investment in research.

In support of a number of the recommendations made at the Summit, the Australian Government provides funding for programs aimed at improving the care and support available to people with dementia. These programs include services specifically designed to incorporate the needs of people with younger onset dementia, including a national helpline providing counselling and support, behaviour management advice and training for people with dementia and their carers, and health professionals.

The Government has also provided funding for research specifically related to younger onset dementia and developed manuals to assist in translating the findings into practice.

The Productivity Commission's inquiries into Disability and Support and Aged Care provide opportunities to further consider the recommendations of the Summit, particularly in relation to employment and financial needs, and the need for better legal support to assist with powers of attorney and advance care directives.