

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ17-000182**

**Topic: Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Carol Brown asked:**

1. Is the Government seeking to change the eligibility framework for the Carer Payment or the Carer Allowance?
2. The MYEFO (page 46) notes a reduction in “payments related to the Income Support for Carers program, which are expected to decrease by \$127 million in 2016-17 (\$1.9 billion over the four years to 2019-20), largely reflecting lower than expected growth in the number of Carer Payment recipients.” The PBO MYEFO Charts (page 16) notes that “relative to the 2016-17 Budget, policy decisions are expected to decrease expenses on income support for carers by \$0.2 billion over the four years to 2019-20”. The PBO Charts reveal the government is planning a policy intervention that would see \$200M worth of payments stricken from the forward estimates; which carers is the government going to throw off the payment?

**Answer:**

The Government is undertaking a project to review the assessment process for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/benefits-payments/improved-assessment-process-for-carer-payment-and-carer-allowance>

Any changes to eligibility are a matter for Government.