

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-088

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Aged Care Gateway

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question:

- a) What is the relationship between the national assessment framework and the Gateway?
- b) Will the national assessment framework assess people for the Home Support program?
- c) How will the Gateway operate when it is fully operational?
- d) What is the proposed method for working with the sector in developing quality indicators and a rating system, which for the My Aged Care website?

Answer:

- a) The Aged Care Gateway will facilitate needs assessments. It will utilise a national assessment framework, which for the first time will provide a nationally consistent assessment process for access to aged care services and create a clear pathway into, and through, the aged care system.
- b) Eventually, yes. The assessment framework will be implemented over time in consultation with the sector. Existing assessment processes undertaken by Home and Community Care providers will be maintained until the assessment framework is fully implemented over the next few years. This will ensure consumers and providers have time to adapt and plan ahead for assessment reform.
- c) Over the next five years, the Government will establish the Aged Care Gateway which will be an identifiable entry point to the aged care system. Detailed planning around how the fully functioning Aged Care Gateway will operate is still being undertaken. The first key elements will be:
 - the My Aged Care website and a national call-centre;
 - a national assessment framework; and
 - a linking service to assist the most vulnerable people with complex needs.
- d) Under the new governance arrangements for the aged care reforms, there will be a significant number of stakeholder engagement mechanisms for consultation including through the National Aged Care Alliance, an Expert Advisory Group, and subject specific working groups.