

**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: E12-086**

**OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing**

**Topic:** Aged Care Quality Agency

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Siewert

**Question:**

- a) When will ACQA be formed?
- b) What will be its relationship with the Department?
- c) Are there mechanisms in place to ensure its independence?
- d) Will the Implementation Council play a role developing the detail of the regulatory role and operating procedures of ACQA?

**Answer:**

- a) The Australian Aged Care Quality Agency (AACQA) will be formed by 1 July 2014.
- b) The Department of Health and Ageing has responsibility for ensuring homes meet their obligations under the *Aged Care Act 1997* and the Aged Care Principles, and AACQA will have primary responsibility for monitoring aged care services against quality standards.
- c) AACQA will be a separate legal entity from the Department and will retain independence in its decision making power and through its enabling legislation.
- d) Implementation of the reforms will be overseen by a new Aged Care Reform Implementation Council. It is anticipated that the Implementation Council will be consulted in regards to the regulatory role of AACQA.