

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.1 Access and Information

Question No: SQ15-000342

Topic: ACAR

Hansard page: Written

Senator Helen Polley asked:

Given the removal of Home care Packages from ACAR, is this part of a move towards ending rationing in residential aged care?

Please outline changes proposed for similar changes in residential aged care?

Answer:

In the recent Budget, the Government announced that, from February 2017, funding for home care packages will be attached to the consumer, rather than to places allocated to individual providers. The upcoming 2015-16 ACAR is expected to be the last ACAR in which home care places are allocated to providers.

However, the total number of aged care places, including home care packages (available to consumers) and residential care places (allocated to providers), will continue to be determined in line with the aged care provision ratio. The provision ratio is planned to increase to 125 operational aged care places per 1,000 people aged 70 years and over by 2021-22.

At this stage there are no changes proposed to the Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) allocation process for residential aged care.

Minister Fifield has asked the Aged Care Sector Committee to develop an Aged Care Roadmap by December 2015. The Roadmap will investigate and prioritise what more needs to be done to move to a more sustainable, consumer led aged care market supported by regulation that is fit for purpose. Issues affecting the allocation of places for residential aged care will be considered in the context of this Roadmap.