

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 427

Topic: Diversity

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

What is the Government's policy on the provision of appropriate aged care services for Indigenous Australians, in remote, regional and urban areas; particularly given the Indigenous population is ageing at a greater rate than the non-Indigenous population?

Answer:

The Government recognises that ageing and disability affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at an earlier age than non-Indigenous Australians. Consequently, planning for services is based on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over, and 70 years and over for the remainder of the population.

In addition to mainstream aged care services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to services under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program which provides culturally appropriate care older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people close to their home and community.

In addition older people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have been identified as a special needs group under the *Aged Care Act 1997*(the Act) which means that, where gap in service provision is identified, new aged care places are allocated to providers, who focus on service provision and people with special needs.