

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

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 433

Topic: Dementia Advisory Group

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

In regard to the measures that are part of the dementia package - a \$268 million package over five years which includes more support for timely diagnosis of dementia in primary care and expansion of the scope of dementia behaviour management advisory services. Please provide an update on the implementation of these important measures? How is the Department working with the Dementia Advisory Group? Is the Coalition Government committed to this plan?

Answer:

The Department is progressing implementation of the dementia package announced as part of aged care reform including these particular initiatives:

- The Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services have been expanded to include service provision within primary and acute care settings.
- Contractual negotiations are underway for an audit of dementia training and resources to identify gaps in the primary care sector as a preliminary step in developing appropriate support for more timely diagnosis of dementia.

A range of other activities under the package are also underway including:

- The Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care has been engaged to promote the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, as they relate to the care of people with cognitive impairment through the development of a handbook.
- Funding has been provided for a national evidence based consultation service on the design and development of acute care environments that are sympathetic to people with cognitive impairment. This service has commenced.
- An audit of training and education resources currently available for acute care staff is being undertaken. This audit will assist in identifying what is available for the sector and any gaps in resources.
- Alzheimer's Australia have been contracted to roll out a national network of younger onset dementia key workers. There are currently 40 key workers operating nationally.
- A Dementia and Severe Behaviours Supplement has been implemented in residential aged care and a Dementia and Cognitive Supplement has been implemented in Home Care Packages, with effect from August 2013.

The Department has worked closely with the Minister's Dementia Advisory Group on the implementation of these measures.