

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ16-000365

Topic: Disability & Carers Policy

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

1. In relation to questioning on the National Carer Strategy, Mr Christian stated that “the [Integrated Carer Plan] will be the key mechanisms for reforms to supports for carers going forward” and then went on to say the “[The Carer Gateway Advisory Group] have been working on the possible reforms to the way in which carers supports are provided to replace the carer strategy.” (HANSARD Proof, 20 October 2016, p74) Given this evidence, is it correct to conclude that there is currently have no overarching national carer policy?
2. Noting that the draft Service Concept for the Integrated Carer Support Services specifically states that it “identifies a set of carer-specific supports” (version 2, Page 5), is it envisage that it would encompass mainstream supports as well as carer supports services?
3. When was the Department first advised that the National Carer Strategy was not Government policy?

Answer:

1. This is not correct.
2. The purpose of the proposed new integrated carer support service system is to deliver carer-specific supports, with linkages to mainstream supports and services.
3. The Department was advised of the Government’s intention to develop an Integrated Plan for Carer Support Services in the lead-up to the 2015-16 Budget.