



Senator the Hon Anne Ruston

**Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care
Shadow Minister for Sport
Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate
Senator for South Australia**

25 October 2024

Mr Blair Comley PSM
Secretary
Department of Health and Aged Care

Dear Secretary Comley,

While I understand that you and your Department will attend Senate Estimates with detailed information regarding the operations of the Department of Health and Aged Care and portfolio agencies, I write to request that the Department provides the following specific information prior to your attendance before the Community Affairs Committee.

Urgent Care Clinics

- The full list of the 29 locations (both locations announced and yet to be announced) earmarked for an Urgent Care Clinic as per the 2024-25 Budget measure

Bulk Billing figures

- The monthly GPR NRA Services figures (total and bulk billed) from October 2023 to September 2024 (and October 2024 if available) as per the table provided in response to SQ24-000195 – Question 4.
- Bulk Billing Figures by electorate at September 2024.

Private Health Insurance

- The number of Australians with Private Health Insurance by electorate at September 2024.

Better Access

- The number of Australians who accessed a mental health session through the Better Access Program by electorate at September 2024.

Workforce

- An updated forecast gap of registered nurses required in residential aged care to fulfil care minute requirements currently in place, as of 1 October 2024.’
- A breakdown of the current care workforce numbers across Australia, including registered nurses, enrolled nurses, general practitioners, disability care workers and aged care workers. Please provide in the same format as response tabled 15 Feb 2024 from 2023-24 Additional Estimates.

Aged Care

- Irrespective of priority level, the median and mean time elapsed, in days, for the following scenarios pertaining to Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP):
 - Initial submission of request for assessment to receipt of program outcome
 - Receipt of outcome to decision on acceptance of program
 - Patient acceptance of CHSP, to receipt of first support service
- Irrespective of priority level, the median and mean time elapsed, in days, for the following scenarios pertaining to Home Care Packages (HCP):
 - Initial submission of request for assessment to receipt of package outcome
 - Receipt of assessment outcome to consumer acceptance of package
 - Acceptance of package to assignment of assessed upon level of HCP
 - Receipt of assessed package level to receipt of first support services
- Current point in time data of all public hospital beds occupied by individuals waiting to be approved for, or receive entrance to, a residential aged care facility. Please provide this as a breakdown by each hospital location.

I would appreciate if you could provide this information by no later than COB Monday 4th November 2024.

Please note that this list of topics is not exhaustive, and Opposition Senators will have other questions referring to expenditure across the Department of Health and Aged Care and Sport portfolios.

Please also note that at the time of writing, there are 6 overdue Questions on Notice from myself stemming from the 2024-25 Budget Estimates.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,