



**Senator the Hon Anne Ruston**

**Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care  
Shadow Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme  
Shadow Minister for Sport  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate  
Senator for South Australia**

25 November 2025

Mr Blair Comley PSM  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Aged Care  
*Via email:*

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, Aged Care and Disability portfolio agencies, I write to request that the Department provides the following specific information prior to your attendance before the Community Affairs Committee hearing.

**Budget information – Bulk Billing Incentives**

- The specific budget breakdown for each of the following measures each year over the forward estimates
  - Expanding the bulk billing incentives to all Australians
  - The Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program

**Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program**

- The number of general practices participating in the program by state and territory and by federal electorate as of 1 December 2025, with a break down including:
  - (a) Total number of practices that were already bulk billing prior to 1 November 2024
  - (b) Total number of practices that commenced fully bulk billing since the program began on 1 November 2024

**Support At Home**

- A breakdown by state and territory and by federal electorate of Support at Home packages (formerly Home Care Packages) released since 1 November 2025, including:
  - (a) the number of packages released at each support level;
  - (b) the number of packages assigned/allocated to an individual at each support level;
  - (c) the number of individuals who were approved for a package at one support level but allocated a package at a lower support level, broken down by:
    - approved level and allocated level; and
    - the average waiting time between approval and allocation for these individuals.

- A breakdown by state and territory and by federal electorate of the 20,000 additional Support at Home packages (formerly Home Care Packages) referred to in the Minister's press release "*20,000 fast-tracked home care packages delivered*" (30 October 2025), including:
  - (a) the number of packages released at each support level;
  - (b) the number of packages assigned/allocated to an individual at each support level before 1 November 2025;
  - (c) the number of individuals who were approved for a package at one support level but allocated a package at a lower support level, broken down by:
    - approved level and allocated level; and
    - the average waiting time between approval and allocation for these individuals.

#### Aged Care

- The number of Australians on the National Priority System as at 1 November 2025. Please provide a national figure, as well as a breakdown by federal electorate.
- The latest number of Australians waiting to be assessed under the Single Assessment System, Aged Care Assessment Team and Regional Assessment Team as at 1 November 2025.
- The number of people who are medically ready for discharge from public hospitals but are occupying acute beds due to unavailability of aged care placement or NDIS accommodation, by state and territory. Please include the average length of stay for this cohort.
- The number of people who are medically ready for discharge from public hospitals but are occupying acute beds, broken down by those waiting for a home care package on the National Priority System and by those waiting for a residential aged care bed.
- Provide a breakdown of the new residential aged care beds delivered in 2024–25, specifying how many were funded through ACCAP and how many were constructed by the private sector.

I would appreciate if you could provide this information by no later than COB Monday 1 December 2025 as I intend to ask questions related to the above during the hearings. This list of topics is not exhaustive, and Opposition Senators will have other questions referring to expenditure across the Department of Health, Aged Care and Disability and portfolios.

Please note we are still seeking the following information that was requested at the 2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates in October.

- A summary table providing details of the 70 reviews mentioned in the Department's Incoming Government Brief to the Minister. Please include the title of each review, a brief description and its current status.

Please also note that at the time of writing there are still 56 unanswered questions on notice.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,

Senator Anne Ruston