

**Australian Government****Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing**

Secretary

Senator Dorinda Cox
Chair, Community Affairs Legislation Committee
community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Chair,

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing received a request for preliminary information from Senator Ruston on 25 November 2025. The request relates to the operations of the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio ahead of the Supplementary Senate Estimates hearing scheduled for 3 and 4 December 2025.

We acknowledge the importance of accountability to the Senate and note that the established process provides Senators with the opportunity to scrutinise and ask questions during these allocated hearing days.

Given the close proximity of the two hearings and noting the supplementary hearing is an extension of the previous session, as well as the time required to compile this information, we consider it more effective to focus our efforts on preparing for a comprehensive discussion during the hearing itself.

Accordingly, we will ensure that relevant officials from across the portfolio are available to respond to Senator Ruston's questions at the hearing.

Should you require any further clarification or wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office. We remain committed to supporting the Estimates process and to providing timely, accurate and comprehensive responses to the Committee.

I have copied this letter to Senator Ruston.

Yours sincerely

Blair Comley PSM
27 November 2025