

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health and Aged Care

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Inquiry into the Aged Care Bill 2024 (Provisions)

03 October 2024

PDR Number: IQ24-000126

Findings of the Aged Care Taskforce

Written

Senator: Marielle Smith

Question:

What were the findings of the Aged Care Taskforce

Answer:

Key findings of the Aged Care Taskforce (the Taskforce) in its final report included:

- That government should continue to be the main funder of aged care, but with an increased role for consumer co-contributions to fund the gap in sector viability.
- The Taskforce agreed it is appropriate for older people to contribute to their aged care costs where they have the means to do so. Contributions should be focused on everyday living and accommodation costs that people have paid for throughout their lives.
- The Taskforce recommended a strong safety net for low means participants to meet aged care costs.
- Aged care fees need to be transparent and simple, and reforms to contributions should support simpler fee arrangements.
- After considering the evidence, the Taskforce did not recommend the introduction of a levy or a new tax to fund aged care based on intergenerational equity issues.
- The Taskforce recommended that appropriate arrangements should be established to support a smooth transition for older people and providers to new arrangements, including grandparenting for those already in residential aged care and phasing in of new arrangements for home care.