

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Support at Home Program

01 April 2026

PDR Number: IQ26-000032

Reduction in aged-care expenditure

Spoken

Hansard page number: 17

Senator: Anne Ruston

Question:

Senator RUSTON: To that end, I'd be interested to understand whether, on average, the assessment outcomes under the tool are lower than those under the previous system. If so, has there been any resulting reduction in aged-care expenditure that relates to this particular budget item? And are there any cost containment targets or performance measures linked to that tool that are built into the tool?

Mr Pugh: We can absolutely take that on notice.

Answer:

- The average level of ongoing funding that participants are approved for since the introduction of the classification algorithm is not lower than under the previous system.
- There are no cost containment targets or performance measures linked to the use of the Integrated Assessment Tool or the classification algorithm.
- The classification algorithm improves the allocative efficiency of in-home aged care funding compared to the Home Care Packages (HCP) program.
- It ensures that people with similar characteristics and clinical needs receive the same level of support, reducing variability in funding levels which was seen in the HCP program.
- It has been designed to achieve consistency, ensure equity and build confidence.