

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

The Transition of the Commonwealth Home Support Program to the Support at Home Program

06 February 2026

PDR Number: IQ26-000001

Actual number of people associated with that three-month wait

Spoken

Hansard page number: 38

Senator: Anne Ruston

Question:

Senator RUSTON: Was there any number associated with that? It's three months, but it would involve how many people? Three months for a million people is probably not great, but three months for 20,000 people would definitely show an incredibly marked improvement. Was there an actual number of people associated with that three-month wait?

Mr Pugh: I can get that for you on notice, but it would be the—I can't remember my own number now— 328,014, plus the 83,000 that have been washed through in the program, plus any additions in the second year of the program. I don't have that number, but it's higher than the combination of those two figures, if that makes sense.

Senator RUSTON: Can I put that on notice. We're obviously together again next week. I'd be really keen for you to come with some really good data in relation to that end-of-2027 three-month wait and what your modelling says about how many packages will need to be released over that period of time to reach that three months and what the numbers are.

Mr Pugh: Absolutely. I think we might have given that previously, but we can come prepared with it.

Answer:

- The number of additional packages released to meet the three month commitment, and the number of people waiting to receive a Support at Home place on 1 November 2027, will depend on the level of demand for the program