

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: IQ24-000147

Online platform registration

Written

Senator: Marielle Smith

Question:

Why aren't online platforms required to become registered providers like they are in the NDIS

Answer:

The two Constitutional heads of powers that enable the Aged Care Bill (hospital benefits power and external affairs power) mean that online platforms cannot be regulated unless they receive government funding directly and deliver any government funded services.

Nonetheless, the Bill seeks to regulate online platforms in aged care for the first time.

Importantly, all instances of care will require a Registered Provider – meaning that there will always be an accountable organisation to ensure that quality care is delivered.

Nothing in the Bill would prevent an online platform from becoming a Registered Provider and receiving government funding directly, provided they meet the same registration requirements as other types of entities and comply with the same obligations.

The Department of Health and Aged Care is working with the Department of Social Services and other care and support economy agencies to enable an aligned approach to the regulation of online platform providers. The aim is to balance the rights of consumer choice and agency with the need to manage risks to health and wellbeing for vulnerable people.