

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to COVID-19 pandemic

29 September 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000681

Percentage of the aged care staff have completed foundation training

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 9

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Can I go to the staff training issue. An answer to one of the questions taken on notice said that as of 9 September there were 173,554 aged-care professionals who had completed the foundation training. What percentage of the staff of the aged-care workforce is that?

Mr Lye: We could come back to you on that. It would be misleading to use that, because those modules that have been provided are over and above what training we would expect that staff had done in aged care. Some providers have not used that service, because they have their own standing arrangements. So putting that figure over the top of the estimate that we have of the number of staff in residential aged-care facilities would produce a dramatic underestimate of the number of people who were trained.

Answer:

The number of workers who completed the Department's eLearning modules, is not a measure of how many workers have attained IPC competency. Commonwealth law requires approved providers of aged care homes to meet the Aged Care Quality Standards (Quality Standards) to ensure quality care and services are provided to all care recipients. These e-learning modules are over and above what is already required.

Under the Quality Standards, providers are required to demonstrate their workforce is recruited, trained, equipped and supported to deliver the outcomes required by the Quality Standards. Providers may satisfy this requirement by mandating its staff complete the online e-learning program, or by an equivalent mode of study. There are a number of alternatives available, and used by providers, to attain these skills.

As at 9 October 2020, **1,494,713** aged care eLearning modules had been completed. Over **1,262,988** people have completed the COVID-19 foundation course on infection prevention and control (IPC). **184,842** people who completed the additional COVID-19 foundation course identified as an aged care worker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

29 September 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000691

Increase in home-care places

Spoken

Hansard Page number: 25-26

Senator: Murray Watt

Question:

Dr Hartland: Let me finish off the point that I was making. It hasn't moved places from the future into the present in the sense of not having them in the future. It has created more places in the current—

Senator WATT: Not 50,000 though.

Dr Hartland: I'll have to see if we can get a reconciliation of that for you, Senator. I don't think I have the material in front of me to show how the places have rolled out.

Senator WATT: Again, documents provided to the royal commission tell us that as of the 2018-19 budget there would be 162,514 home-care places by 2024. It is not the case that there will be 50,000 more cases on top of that by 2024, is it?

Dr Hartland: I've never told you that. I don't think anyone has ever said that.

Senator WATT: You haven't but ministers, including the Prime Minister, have repeatedly said that there are an additional 50,000 places. If that were true then there would be 212,504 places in 2024.

Dr Hartland: I don't think you are characterising the Prime Minister or the minister's statements correctly.

Senator WATT: I will give you an exact quote from the Prime Minister from 8 July 2020: 'Today I'm announcing an additional 6,100 in-home aged-care places, which will bring an additional 50,000 places at a cost

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of some \$3 billion, which we have announced since the 2018-19 budget.' On 26 of August this year the minister said, 'What we've been able to do is invest \$3 billion since the 2018-18 budget to provide an additional 50,000 home-care packages.' They're direct quotes from ministers.

Dr Hartland: There is nothing incorrect about those quotes—

Senator WATT: Except that there aren't 50,000 additional packages.

Dr Hartland: That is not right. I am sorry.

Senator WATT: Perhaps you can come back on notice and demonstrate to me where these 50,000 additional places are, because the documents you provided to the royal commission, and that you answered questions on at the royal commission, show that there is nowhere near a 50,000 increase in the number of home-care places.

Dr Hartland: I've explained the difference to you, Senator. I can go over it again if the committee has time, but it might be helpful if we see if we can provide a different way of picturing it for you.

Senator WATT: I probably cannot take this any further, Chair.

CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Watt. Dr Hartland, you've taken that on notice. I will go to Senator Siewert.

Answer:

Since the Hearing on 29 September 2020, a further 33,000 Home Care Packages (HCPs) have been announced as part of the 2020-21 Budget and 2020-21 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. This brings the total figure of additional HCPs to 83,105 since the 2018-19 Budget (Table 1).

Table 1 – Public announcements since the 2018-19 Budget and their cost implication over the forward estimates at the point of announcement

Update	HCPs	Expenditure (\$m)
2018-19 Budget	14,000	\$1,600.4
2018-19 MYEFO	10,000	\$287.3
2019-20 Budget	10,000	\$282.4
2019-20 MYEFO	10,000	\$496.3
2020-21 Budget (announced in July 2020)	6,105	\$325.7
2020-21 Budget	23,000	\$1,620.6
2020-21 MYEFO	10,000	\$850.8
Total	83,105	\$5,463.5

Table 2 below shows the details of the HCPs announced since the 2018-19 Budget. Figures bolded indicate when the additional HCPs have been counted towards the 83,105 figure, with notes at the bottom of the table verifying where only parts of the bolded figures have been counted. As Table 2 shows, many of the announcements have had impacts beyond one financial year. The bottom parts of the table reflect the impact of the announcements and clearly show that the announcements have had a positive impact on HCP volumes in each year from 2018-19 onwards. This impact extends beyond 2023-24.

Table 2 – Additional HCPs announced since the 2018-19 Budget update

Budget Update	Level	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
2018-19 Budget: \$1,600.4m 14,000 HCPs* Commenced roll out in 2018-19	L1						
	L2						
	L3	4,370	7,051	7,139	7,139	7,929	8,719
	L4	4,370	7,051	7,139	7,139	6,666	6,192
2018-19 MYEFO: \$287.3m 10,000 HCPs 5,000 each at L3 and L4 in 2018-19 Rolled out in 2018-19 only	L1						
	L2						
	L3	5,000	393				
	L4	5,000	69				
2019-20 Budget: \$282.4m 10,000 HCPs** 1,447 L1 and 1,013 L2 in 2018-19 and 1,553 L1, 1,487 L2, 2,500 L3 and 2,000 L4 in 2019-20)	L1	1,447	3,000	1,988	181		
	L2	1,013	2,500	1,500	1,500		
	L3		2,500				
	L4		2,000				
2019-20 MYEFO: \$496.3m 10,000 HCPs*** 3,000 L3 and 2,500 L4 in 2019-20 and 2,000 L2, 2,000 L3 and 500 L4 in 2020-21	L1						
	L2			2,000	1,059	31	
	L3		3,000	4,130	2,111	446	
	L4		2,500	1,852	745	55	
2020-21 Budget: \$325.7m 6,105 HCPs 2,035 each at L1, L2 and L3	L1			2,035	2,035	2,035	1,519
	L2			2,035	2,035	2,035	
	L3			2,035	2,035	2,035	788
	L4						
2020-21 Budget: \$1,620.6m 23,000 HCPs 5,000 L1, 8,000 L2, 8,000 L3 and 2,000 L4	L1			5,000	3,795	3,462	3,462
	L2			8,000	8,000	8,000	7,572
	L3			8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
	L4			2,000	2,000	2,000	1,369
2020-21 MYEFO: \$850.8m 10,000 HCPs 2,500 each at L1, L2 L3 and L4	L1			2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
	L2			2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
	L3			2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
	L4			2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Impact on allocated HCPs from the additional announcements	L1	1,447	3,000	11,523	8,511	7,997	7,481
	L2	1,013	2,500	16,035	15,094	12,566	10,072
	L3	9,370	12,944	23,804	21,785	20,910	20,007
	L4	9,370	11,620	13,491	12,384	11,221	10,061
Cumulative total of new HCPs announced		21,200	51,264	116,117	173,891	226,585	274,206
Impact on the allocated HCPs from non-policy related factors****	L1	6,330	7,589	-500	-499	-500	-500
	L2	-3,443	-2,304	-2,070	-2,069	-2,069	-2,068
	L3	-2,717	-1,758	-51	-50	-50	-50
	L4	-1,999	-1,289	-60	-60	-60	-59
	Total	-1,829	2,239	-2,680	-2,678	-2,679	-2,677
Forecast allocated HCPs agreed at the 2020-21 Budget update	L1	12,868	19,329	21,450	21,450	21,450	21,450
	L2	52,425	64,741	80,071	80,071	80,071	80,071
	L3	25,472	31,931	48,224	48,224	48,224	48,224
	L4	34,354	39,624	45,852	45,852	45,852	45,852
	Total	125,119	155,625	195,597	195,597	195,597	195,597

Notes:

* The 14,102 (7,051 + 7,051) HCPs were at the time expressed as 14,000 HCPs when rounded.

** In 2019-20, 1,553 of the 3,000 level 1 HCPs have been recorded against the additional HCPs released. Similarly, 1,487 of the 2,500 level 2 HCPs in 2019-20 have been recorded against the additional HCPs released.

***In 2020-21, 2,000 of the 4,130 level 3 HCPs have been recorded against the additional HCPs released. Similarly, 500 of the 1,852 level 4 HCPs in 2020-21 have been recorded against the additional HCPs released.

****These figures include the impact of the ABS' population estimate changes that affect HCP figures. The 2018-19 and 2019-20 results are also actuals and will not match the forecast figures due to variances in take-up rates, expenditure profiles of clients in a HCP etc. The sum of the rows may not add to the total due to rounding applied in the modelling.

Table 3 shows the estimated increase to home care program expenditure post the 2017-18 MYEFO update.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Estimated Government expenditure as at the 2017-18 MYEFO update (\$m)	\$2,293.1	\$2,656.0	\$2,974.1	\$3,226.5	\$3,399.9	\$3,575.3
Estimated Government expenditure as at the 2020-21 Budget (\$m)	\$2,469.3	\$3,350.1	\$4,260.8	\$4,758.3	\$4,813.5	\$4,896.8
Growth in estimates (\$m)	\$176.2	\$694.1	\$1,286.7	\$1,531.8	\$1,413.6	\$1,321.5
Growth in estimates (%)	8%	26%	43%	47%	42%	37%