

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: IQ26-000030

Overallocation of \$4 billion of funding

Spoken

Hansard page number: 17

Senator: Anne Ruston

Question:

Senator RUSTON: We've identified that there was \$4 billion of funding that had been allocated. Was there an estimated \$4 billion saving from the new IAT tool?

Ms Atkinson: No, I don't believe so.

Senator RUSTON: So, if there wasn't a saving, what are the projected savings of the override? There was \$4 billion overallocated, which is part of the reason we've talked about this tool. Going forward, where is that \$4 billion, or the equivalent of it, which will no longer be provided or allocated? Has it been reallocated somewhere in a budget line that I could find?

Mr Pugh: My first answer to that is I can take it on notice, because I don't want to mislead the inquiry. But my understanding is that that \$4 billion is still sitting nominally in home-care client accounts and that they can be drawn down in the future. So there's been no saving; that money is there, and it is—I don't want to use the word 'liability', because the accounting people will tell me that's the wrong word, but it is there for packages or services to be drawn down in the future.

Senator RUSTON: Could you point—obviously, I don't expect you to know now—to where that is currently sitting.

Mr Pugh: It's not appropriated to the department of health. I don't know where it's sitting.

Senator RUSTON: Okay, that's fine. But, obviously, if there were \$4 billion that had been sitting in accounts previously—is there an understanding that there would be less funding required going forward? I would imagine you are suggesting that overallocation is not going to occur under the new program.

Answer:

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is not able to disclose the contents of advice provided to government.