

# **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: IQ24-000142**

**Aged care assessments and computer algorithm**

**Written**

**Senator:** Marielle Smith

**Question:**

Will the outcome of aged care assessments be determined by a computer algorithm, and if so, can that decision be overridden by a person.

**Answer:**

The outcome of aged care assessments will be the result of an assessor's recommendation, based on the information collected during the assessment using the Integrated Assessment Tool (IAT). This includes a series of verified assessment instruments used to ask specific questions about a person's function and aged care needs. The questions cover physical, functional, medical, cognitive, psychological, social, frailty and other factors, such as whether the person lives alone.

The answers to these questions are tallied up in the IAT and the result used to recommend a classification. There is a formula, or algorithm, in the IAT that does this. The algorithm was developed using the results of 22,000 aged care assessments to match people's characteristics with the level of services they need.

The IAT recommendation can be overridden by the assessor.