

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-127

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: REPORTABLE ASSAULTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

There is no disclosure of the criteria for establishing whether a reportable assault case is finalised, noting that reportable assaults are a matter for police investigation; therefore

- a) How does the Department establish whether such a case is finalised?
- b) Does the Department seek advice from the police on outcomes?
- c) Does the Department monitor progress with police investigations when considering the need for compliance action?
- d) Are there protocols with Police Departments and the Department governing administrative arrangements?

Answer:

a) to d)

The Aged Care Complaints Scheme finalises cases once it has ensured that an approved provider has met all their statutory obligations for reporting the matter, and that they have taken appropriate actions to support the alleged victim and ensure that a safe environment has been provided to the resident. In the event that an approved provider has not met their responsibilities under the *Aged Care Act 1997* the Department of Health and Ageing can take compliance action.