

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-413

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE

Hansard Page: CA 64

Senator Ferravanti-Wells asked:

Can you take on notice a bit of background in relation to those contractors? How often do you call upon their services?

Answer:

There are 403 registered aged care quality assessors. Of these, 140 are full-time employees of the Accreditation Agency. Some of these are employed in line management and or specialist roles and continue to meet the legal requirements to retain their registration by undertaking a small number of audits each year.

The use of external assessors fluctuates according to the three-yearly accreditation cycle. In the seven months to 31 January 2012, the Accreditation Agency engaged 143 external assessors to undertake audits.

91 per cent of the external assessors are female; 63 per cent have been registered aged care quality assessors for more than five years, 24 per cent between 3 and 5 years and 33 per cent less than 3 years; and 68 per cent have nominated 'registered nurse' as their scope of practice.

The Accreditation Agency estimate that most external assessors either work for an aged care provider, or provide consultancy services to aged care organisations in areas such as education and training, physiotherapy, diversional therapy, quality management, clinical practice, etc.