

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-232

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Staff Involved in ACAT Assessments

Type of Question: Hansard Page 68, 13 February 2013

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What is the number of staff from the department and generally who are actually involved in ACAT assessments? Could you give me a bit of a profile on the staff – where they are and whatever information you have available, if you give it to me from the states?

Answer:

Staff of the Department of Health and Ageing do not undertake Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessments under the *Aged Care Act 1997*. State and territory governments are responsible for the day-to-day management of ACATs and for the employment of ACAT assessors.

ACATs conduct multidisciplinary comprehensive assessments, taking account of the restorative, physical, medical, psychological, cultural and social dimensions of frail older people. ACATs generally comprise or have access to a range of health professionals to inform the ACAT assessment, including geriatricians, registered nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, speech pathologists, and Aboriginal Health Workers.

Approximate numbers (provided by states and territories) of those involved in ACAT assessments are:

- NSW 474
- VIC 472
- QLD 281
- SA 105
- WA 313
- TAS 35
- NT 37
- ACT 13