

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-235

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Closure of Aged Care Services in Queensland – Impact on Place Numbers

Type of Question: Hansard Page 75, 13 February 2013

Senator: Senator Furner

Question:

But at the time of deciding 2,243 places, was any consideration given by the department on the decision of the Queensland state government in closing aged care homes in north Rockhampton, Kingaroy, Townsville, Charters Towers, Maryborough, and then the south-east corner – Eventide, Zillmere, Kippa-Ring, Wynnum or Cleveland?

So it looks like the horse has bolted. We are in a situation now where there will be thousands of aged care people, most likely out on the streets, looking for places to reside as a result of the LNP government in Queensland. That is where we are sitting?

Answer:

The planning process undertaken by the Department of Health and Ageing to consider the number of residential care places available in Queensland in the 2012-13 Aged Care Approvals Round was finalised prior to any announcement by the Queensland Government.

It is important to note that under the *Aged Care Act 1997*, existing residents have security of tenure while the service remains operational. This means that an approved provider must not take action to make a resident leave, or imply that a resident must leave, before suitable alternative accommodation is available that meets the resident's assessed long term needs and is affordable to the recipient.