

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-236

**OUTCOME 4:** Aged Care and Population Ageing

**Topic:** Viability Supplement

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 77, 13 February 2013

**Senator:** Senator Smith

**Question:**

How does the viability supplement work in terms of a process? Is an aged care home required to apply for it? Is it built into its particular funding instrument? How does it work?

**Answer:**

The Viability Supplement aims to improve the capacity of small, rural aged care services to offer quality care to residents. The supplement is paid automatically, every month, to eligible providers. Providers do not need to apply for the supplement.

As part of the 2011-12 Budget, measures were introduced to expand existing funding under the supplement to provide additional support to:

- aged care homes in very remote to moderately accessible locations that target low care;
- eligible aged care homes that provide specialist aged care services to Indigenous Australians; and
- eligible aged care homes that provide specialist aged care services to people with a history of (or who may be at severe risk of) homelessness.

To qualify for the expansion component of the Viability Supplement, an aged care home must apply to the Department of Health and Ageing outlining the home's history and track record in providing access for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and/or Indigenous Australians and the capacity to provide high quality care that meets the specific needs of these groups.