

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 514

Topic: Aged Care Workforce Innovation Network - Reform Ready Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

In April 2012, the former Government announced the Living Longer, Living Better aged care reform. As part of this reform, the Government established an initiative known as the Workforce Innovation Network, managed by the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council, to undertake Reform Ready Reviews of Aged Care providers. These reviews, as I understand, were offered in a limited number of local government areas and were designed to assist providers prepare their respective organisations for the Living Longer, Living Better aged care reforms. Can you please advise the following:

1. What is the current status of this initiative?
2. How many reviews have occurred?
3. What mechanisms are in place to determine the effectiveness of the reviews?
4. What will become of the Reform Ready Review process from 1 July 2014?
5. What other initiatives are being considered by the department to assist providers to reposition their organisations for the proposed Living Longer, Living Better aged care reforms?

Answer:

Parts 1-4 are being responded to by the Department of Industry, which reports to the Economics Committee.

5. The Department regularly engages the sector about aged care reform. This includes explaining aged care pricing changes to aged care stakeholders. Communication products are being developed which include fact sheets, case studies, and face-to-face stakeholder engagements.

Communication efforts will increase leading up to 1 July 2014, when new financial arrangements come into effect.

The aged care reform website provides aged care stakeholders with access to the most up to date information on the aged care reforms including frequently asked questions, fact sheets, consultation papers and new program guidelines. This website is located at:
www.dss.gov.au/agedcarereform

In addition, a free new service, Transitional Business Advisory Services (TBAS), has been launched to help residential aged care providers to transition to the new accommodation payment arrangements that start from 1 July 2014. All aged care providers with operational residential care places are eligible for assistance under TBAS.