

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 3- Ageing and Aged Care**

**Question No: SQ15-000106**

**Topic: Reform review**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Polley, Helen** asked:

What is in place to ensure the review of Living Longer Living Better by 2017 is being undertaken already?

What is being reviewed and assessed?

What qualitative reviews will take place? Will this include focus groups?

How much is budgeted for these reviews?

**Answer:**

The legislation provides for the Minister to cause an independent review of the operation and amendments made by the *Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Act 2013*, the *Aged Care (Bond Security) Amendment Act 2013* and the *Aged Care (Bond Security) Levy Amendment Act 2013*. The review has not commenced.

Section 4(4) of the *Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Act 2013* states:

“The review must commence as soon as practicable after the end of the period of 3 years after the commencement of Schedule 1.”

As Schedule 1 to the Act commenced on 1 August 2013, the review must commence as soon as practicable after 1 August 2016.

Section 4(5) of the Act states:

“The person who undertakes the review must give the Minister a written report of the review within 12 months after the end of the 3 year period.”

The report of the review must therefore be provided to the Minister by 1 August 2017.

Section 4(2) of the *Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Act 2013* states that the review must consider the following matters:

- (a) whether unmet demand for residential and home care places has been reduced;
- (b) whether the number and mix of places for residential care and home care should continue to be controlled;
- (c) whether further steps could be taken to change key aged care services from a supply driven model to a consumer demand driven model;

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- (d) the effectiveness of means testing arrangements for aged care services, including an assessment of the alignment of charges across residential care and home care services;
- (e) the effectiveness of arrangements for regulating prices for aged care accommodation;
- (f) the effectiveness of arrangements for protecting equity of access to aged care services for different population groups;
- (g) the effectiveness of workforce strategies in aged care services, including strategies for the education, recruitment, retention and funding of aged care workers;
- (h) the effectiveness of arrangements for protecting refundable deposits and accommodation bonds;
- (i) the effectiveness of arrangements for facilitating access to aged care services;
- (j) any other related matter that the Minister specifies.

Section 4(3) of the *Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Act 2013* mandates that the review must make provision for public consultation, and must provide for consultation with:

- (a) approved providers; and
- (b) aged care workers; and
- (c) consumers; and
- (d) people with special needs; and
- (e) carers; and
- (f) representatives of consumers.

The method of public consultation is yet to be determined.

The costs of undertaking the review will be met within the department's existing appropriation. As the review will not commence until 2016, the department has not yet allocated a budget.