

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

**Outcome Number: 3.1 Access and Information**

**Question No: SQ15-000124**

**Topic: Assessments**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Polley, Helen** asked:

Can you explain why the maximum fee payments is weighted towards the start of the care year?

Why was the decision made not to spread it in equal payment instalments, averaged across the entire year?

For example a care recipient is charged the maximum means tested care fee of \$208.68 a day, which they pay for the first 121 days. Why are they not charged \$69.45 a day for 365 days a year?

**Answer:**

This was a policy decision of the former government consistent with the view that those who can afford to contribute to their cost of care should do so.