

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

Outcome Number: 3.4 Residential and Flexible Care

Question No: SQ15-000207

Topic: Residential care

Hansard page: Written

Senator Polley, Helen asked:

What is the number of allocated bed licences yet to be developed?

Please indicate where these are located by state/territory.

When were the outstanding bed licences allocated?

Has the Department taken back any bed licences from providers?

When allocating new bed licences does the Department take into consideration whether providers have unallocated bed licences?

Please provide the process and criteria used to allocate bed licences.

Answer:

What is the number of allocated bed licences yet to be developed?

As at 30 June 2014, there were 21,047 provisionally allocated places in residential aged care nationally. (Source: 2014 National Stocktake of Aged Care Places).

Please indicate where these are located by State/Territory?

Please refer to Attachment A.

When were the outstanding bed licences allocated?

Please refer to Attachment A.

Has the Department taken back any bed licences from providers?

Under the *Aged Care Act 1997* (the Act) places can be revoked by the Department. Places can also be handed back or surrendered. Not all provisionally allocated places end up becoming operational.

The details of this information are protected under the *Aged Care Act 1997*.

When allocating new bed licences does the Department take into consideration whether providers have unallocated bed licences?

The Department of Social Services allocates the new aged care places (home care and residential care) after conducting a competitive assessment process based on the provisions of the *Aged Care Act 1997* and *Allocation Principles*, which may include consideration of existing allocations.

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Places are allocated to those applicants who can demonstrate that they can best meet the care needs of older Australians in a particular aged care planning region.

Please provide the process and criteria used to allocate bed licences.

Each year, new aged care places are made available for allocation in each state and territory through the Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR), based on state and territory population projections and the level and type of aged care currently being provided. The process is defined in Part 2.2 of the *Aged Care Act 1997* and the *Allocation Principles 2014*.

Aged care places are distributed to planning areas, known as aged care planning regions, in each state and territory. The distribution of new places across Aged Care Planning Regions within a particular state or territory seeks to achieve a balance in the provision of services between metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas, as well as between people needing differing levels of care.

The Department of Social Services allocates the new aged care places (home care and residential care) after conducting a competitive assessment process based on the provisions of the *Aged Care Act 1997*. Places are allocated to those applicants who can demonstrate that they can best meet the care needs of older Australians in a particular aged care planning region.