

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No: SQ16-000101**

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Claims Processing

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

In The Australian on 10 February 2016, Sean Parnell wrote on privatising Medicare: Minister Ley, in a statement, said her department had been looking for a “more consumer-friendly and faster format” of claims processing and was working with business innovation and technology experts on possible solutions.

- a) Outline exactly who the Department is working with.
- b) What experience do these experts have in working with the aged care sector?
- c) What outcomes is the Department seeking to achieve in aged care claims processing?
- d) Is there an operational budget? If so, please outline what is budgeted and how it will be spent across the forward estimates.
- e) What time frame has been set to deliver a solution?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health has established a Digital Payments Services Taskforce to provide advice to government on health and aged care payment services. The taskforce is not involved in privatising Medicare, nor is there any Government policy on this matter.