

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000108

OUTCOME: 11 – Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Rural and Remote Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

- a) Please outline what action the Government will take to ensure the viability of aged care services in regional, rural and remote parts of the nation.
- b) What are the priorities for the Government following ACFA's February 2016 report?

Answer:

In June 2015 the Government tasked the Aged Care Financing Authority (ACFA) with conducting a study of the issues affecting the financial performance of rural and remote providers, covering residential care, home care package and flexible care providers.

ACFA undertook its assessment, drawing on the input of hundreds of aged care providers operating in rural and remote areas of Australia. ACFA's report, *'Financial Issues Affecting Rural and Remote Aged Care Providers'*, was provided to the Government on 19 January 2016. The Government is currently considering this report.

The Government supports the viability of rural and remote providers by paying them a viability supplement. As part of the 2014 Budget measure: *Reprioritising the Aged Care Workforce Supplement*, the viability supplement was increased by 20 per cent.