

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000110

OUTCOME: 11 – Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Workforce Development

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

- a) What is the Government's role in aged care workforce development?
- b) What work had the Department undertaken in relation to developing a workforce strategy, as per former Minister Fifield's promise and referred to in the Aged Care Sector Committee's June 2014 Communique?
- c) What role will the Government have in developing an aged care workforce strategy?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Government will assist with the development of an aged care workforce strategy. This strategy should be about and for the sector. Developing a strategy will allow the sector to organise itself and drive change in aged care workforce both now and in context of future reforms.
- b) A stocktake and analysis of Commonwealth funded aged care workforce activities (the Stocktake) to identify duplication and gaps across activities, synergies and areas of overlap between the aged care, disability and health workforces has been completed. The Stocktake was released on 11 December 2015 and provides an evidence base to help inform future workforce priorities, including assisting the sector with the aged care workforce strategy.
- c) While the Australian Government will assist with the development of a workforce strategy it recognises that aged care service providers are primarily responsible for managing their workforce requirements.