

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000186

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Aged Care Facilities

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

- a) Can GPs still refer patients directly to aged care facilities, rather than referring them through My Aged Care?
- b) If yes, please provide the data on how many people are being directly referred to aged care facilities by GPs?

Answer:

- a) In exceptional circumstances a general practitioner can refer a person to an aged care facility. Where the person urgently needs care, and it was not practical to apply for the approval beforehand, the approved provider is required to submit the emergency case application to the Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) within 5 business days seeking approval for the care.

The usual pathway for a general practitioner to refer people who wish to receive Commonwealth subsidised care under the *Aged Care Act 1997*, such as residential care, is through an ACAT assessment accessed through My Aged Care, using the online webform.

- b) The Department of Health has data on emergency care approvals by ACATs, however this is not disaggregated to the level of referrer to an aged care service.