

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000265

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Aged Care Guide

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

- a) Who made the decision to archive the Guide to Aged Care Law (on 2 January 2017) and no longer update the guide? Why was this decision made? Are there any savings from making this decision?
- b) Has the government received feedback that providers are unhappy with this decision? Who did the Government consult before taking this decision?
- c) The guide provides critical interpretation of a very complex area of law. Do you not think that given the ongoing reforms in aged care policy, that this kind of guidance is needed now more than ever?
- d) What should providers use instead of the Guide to Aged Care Law?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health decided to remove the Guide to Aged Care Law (the Guide) on 2 January 2017. With the rapid pace of reforms and red tape reduction measures that have occurred in aged care, the Guide was out of date, and the department considered that fact sheets, webinars, quick reference guides and on the department's website provides more up to date and more accessible guidance to providers and consumers.
- b) The Department has received minimal correspondence on the issue. The department did not consult on the matter.
- c) See a) above.
- d) See a) above. Also, the Federal Register of Legislation contains the *Aged Care Act 1997* and its subordinate legislation in force. These are available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C01052>. Approved providers should use these to identify their responsibilities and obligations under the Act.