

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000290

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Home Care

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

What is the evaluation framework for the Increasing Choice reforms and what information will be available publically to monitor implementation and inform Government's planning and funding of home care services?

Answer:

The Department of Health will continue to report publicly on the home care packages program through a range of publications, including the department's Annual Report and Portfolio Budget Statements, the Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997, and the Aged Care Financing Authority's (ACFA) Annual Report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Sector.

The department has developed a Benefits Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy to guide evaluation of the effectiveness of Increasing Choice in the context of broader Aged Care reforms. An initial evaluation will be conducted after six months of operation. A second evaluation will be conducted after a year of operation, forming the start of a regular schedule of annual evaluation. A summary of benefits measures will be reported by the department following the completion of each evaluation.

There will also be an additional reporting framework for the new national home care packages system which will enable both internal monitoring by the department and external reporting to the sector and broader public. Public reporting is expected to commence in the second half of 2017, once reliable and meaningful data is available.