

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000295

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** Home Care

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

What monitoring will there be on the equity of allocation of places and how will any changes be made if the existing process leads to an unfair allocation of home care places by region or special needs groups?

**Answer:**

The national prioritisation system provides a nationally consistent process to assign home care packages to individual consumers, regardless of where they live.

Consumers approved for home care who are actively seeking services will be placed on a national queue according to:

- the time they have waited for care, based on their Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) approval for their level of care; and
- their priority for home care services, as determined through the comprehensive assessment undertaken by an ACAT.

Packages will be assigned to people at the top of the queue. This will occur through My Aged Care on a regular basis.

The Department of Health is closely monitoring the new arrangements to ensure that all consumers, including people with special needs and/or those living in rural and regional areas, are able to access care in an equitable manner. The department will report publicly on access to home care and will continue to work with the sector where issues are identified.