

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-295

OUTCOME 4 Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE COMPLAINTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Will this initiative also involve reform of the Compulsory Reporting obligations on the industry? If not why not?

Answer:

Compulsory reporting requirements are part of an approved provider's responsibilities under the *Aged Care Act 1997* to provide a safe and secure environment for aged care recipients. The Aged Care Complaints Scheme (the Scheme) monitors compulsory reporting.

In 2009, the Australian Government engaged Associate Professor Merrilyn Walton to independently review the operation of the Scheme and identify areas of improvement. As compulsory reports are not complaints, approved provider's responsibilities in relation to compulsory reporting were not in-scope for Walton's review and are not part of the Scheme's reforms.

The Department continues to monitor the impact of compulsory reporting requirements. The need for amendments would be considered after reviewing relevant data and seeking feedback from stakeholders on their experience with compulsory reporting. This process would need to be taken in the context of the broader reviews, such as the Productivity Commission's inquiry into aged care.