

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-296

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: REVIEW OF THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

I refer to the review of the accreditation standards commenced in 2008 under the explicit control of the Department. Can you advise where this initiative is up to and what impact it will have on providers who have now commenced Round 5 of Accreditation.

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing recently undertook consultation with aged care stakeholders on a draft set of Accreditation Standards through a series of workshops around Australia. The Department also received 65 written submissions. Feedback from the workshops and submissions is being considered by a Technical Reference Group (TRG) and the draft Standards are being amended. The amended draft Standards will be provided to the Ageing Consultative Committee for their consideration. The Department will then make the revised draft Standards available to stakeholders and undertake a pilot.

The Department of Health and Ageing is consulting with the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency on the best approach to ensure the least disruption during implementation and will consult further with industry. This will also take into account factors such as the findings from the pilot of the draft Standards, the accreditation cycles and the Government response to the Productivity Commission report.