

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-087

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Aged Care Reform Implementation Council

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question:

- a) What is the role/purpose of the RIC?
- b) Will it be able to direct, monitor and review reform implementation? Or is it simply advisory?
- c) Has the membership of the RIC been decided? If not, can you tell me what proportion you expect to have of: reps from the sector; independent experts; consumers?
- d) What will the relationship be between the RIC and the Transition Office?
- e) How will the \$15.8m for the RIC/Transition Office be used? Will some of it be dedicated towards supporting sector input and consumer engagement?

Answer:

- a) The Aged Care Reform Implementation Council (the Council) is an independent advisory committee, working with the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing and the Department of Health and Ageing, to help drive implementation and further development of the *Living Longer Living Better* aged care reforms.
- b) The Council will monitor, evaluate and report to the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing on the progress of the implementation of the aged care reforms.
- c) On 19 June 2012, Professor Peter Shergold AC was appointed as Chair of the Council. It is expected that the remaining members will be appointed in July 2012 and will consist of up to eight (8) people that have specialist knowledge, skills, experience or expertise to inform the work of the Council.
- d) The Transition Office Branch (TOB) has been established within the Department to support the implementation of the aged care reforms. The TOB will provide secretariat support and assist the Council in undertaking its responsibilities of overseeing the implementation of the reforms, reporting to the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing and evaluating the reforms as they are implemented.

- e) \$15.2 million has been committed over 5 years to provide advice, including independently through the Council, to the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing on the progress of the reforms, and the legislative amendments to the Aged Care Act 1997 and many of its accompanying Principles. Funds will be utilised to coordinate implementation of the reforms, to monitor and evaluate the reforms as they are implemented, as well as for communication activities for consumers, aged care providers and other affected stakeholders to ensure they are informed about the rollout of the reforms.