

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 3.2 Home Support**

**Question No: SQ15-000357**

**Topic: Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Helen Polley asked:**

What specific services are available for vision impaired consumers?

**Answer:**

There are a range of services available for vision impaired consumers. Within the Social Services portfolio, vision impaired services delivered under the Commonwealth HACC Program will be available under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. These services will help clients aged 65 years and over, and their carers and families, to manage these conditions and maximise client independence to enable them to remain living in their own homes.

The Home Care Packages Programme has been developed to assist older Australians to remain in their homes, particularly targeting frail older people. Once a person is approved as eligible for a Home Care Package, as part of the ACAT assessment, package participants may be referred to a medical or health practitioner/service for more specialised assessment of needs, such as those associated with vision impairment or blindness, hearing loss, other disabilities or nutrition. Where required, a consumer may also be able to access nursing, allied health or other clinical services (such as hearing or vision services) under any level of Home Care Package.

Eligible participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme can access a range of supports relevant to their disability needs and life goals. Supports for people with vision loss are diverse and vary according to a person's individual needs, which may include assistance dogs, communication supports, braille readers and/or other personal assistive technologies.

There are also a range of supports available for the prevention and treatment of eye disease and vision loss that are administered through the Health portfolio, and supports for vision impairment funded by state and territory governments.