

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

**Outcome Number: 3.5 Workforce and Quality**

**Question No: SQ15-000393**

**Topic: Aged Care Complaints**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Helen Polley asked:**

Are the offices of DSS and the Aged care Commissioner co-located? If so, how can the independence of the Commissioner be maintained if the staff are employed by and located with DSS?

**Answer:**

The Aged Care Commissioner's primary office is located separately to the Department of Social Services. The independence of the Office of the Aged Care Commissioner will be maintained as staff will take direction from and report to the Aged Care Commissioner. Arrangements will be made to separate staff from broader aged care functions in offices where the Aged Care Complaints Scheme's staff and staff of the Department of Social Services are co-located.