

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

**Outcome Number: 3.1 Access and Information**

**Question No: SQ15-000340**

**Topic: ACAR**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Polley, Helen** asked:

Please provide details about the new streamlined approach to consultation processes that are meant to occur in the lead up to 2015 ACAR?

How does this support the Smaller Government strategy?

Will the new consultation processes create more "red-tape"?

**Answer:**

The Department undertook a streamlined consultation process in June to replace the planning functions previously performed by Aged Care Planning Advisory Committees. A range of stakeholders were invited to participate in the streamlined consultation process, including state, territory and local governments.

The Department will consider the information collected through this process, as well as data and other information held by the Department, to determine the regional distribution of aged care places for the 2015 ACAR, which will be published on the Department's website when the 2015 ACAR is launched.

The removal of Aged Care Planning Advisory Committees (ACPACs) contributes to the Smaller Government strategy by providing a more direct link between a broader range of aged care stakeholders and the Department, which provides a more comprehensive range of information about the need for aged services.

Participation in the streamlined consultation process was voluntary.