

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: SQ15-000346

Topic: Aged Care Planning Advisory Committees

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Helen Polley asked:

Did you cease these committees three months before announcing it and nine months before making legislative changes?

Answer:

Under section 12-7 of the *Aged Care Act 1997* (the Act), the establishment of Aged Care Planning Advisory Committees (ACPACs) was at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Social Services.

The non-ongoing two year fixed term for the ACPACs expired in September 2014. The ACPACs only ever met annually, and last met during the planning process for the 2014 Aged Care Approvals Round.

On 15 December 2014, as part of the 2014-15 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the Government announced that ACPACs would be abolished with ongoing functions to be performed by the Department of Social Services.

The Parliamentary Bill repealing section 12-7 of the Act and amending other relevant sections relating to ACPACs, was passed by the House of Representatives on 15 June 2015. This Bill was introduced to the Senate on 16 June 2015.