

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

Outcome Number: 3.3 Home Care

Question No: SQ15-000365

Topic: CDC - Rural and Regional

Written Question on Notice

Senator Helen Polley asked:

What impact will the new Home Care measures (increasing consumer choice) have in rural and regional areas where there is limited choice?

What additional financial support is available for providers who may experience greater administration costs due to smaller numbers of consumers?

Answer:

The changes are expected to provide more choice and flexibility for consumers as home care places (packages) will no longer be allocated to a specific number of providers through the Aged Care Approvals Round. There will be an increased opportunity for all providers, including new providers, to expand their business.

The business impact on existing organisations and the workforce will be considered as part of the development of the implementation and transition arrangements. These will be informed by consultations with stakeholders. The impact on providers and consumers will also be closely monitored by the Department of Social Services and the Aged Care Financing Authority. In the second stage (from July 2018), there is likely to be mix of individualised funding to consumers and block funding to some providers, particularly in areas of market failure.