

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: SQ15-000375

Topic: CDC and Consumer Choice

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Helen Polley asked:

Given there is a legislated review in 2017 why has the Government chosen to bring forward aged care reforms (Budget measures including greater flexibility and choice) prior to that review?

What evidence is available to demonstrate these new reforms are currently required at this point, particularly before the current reforms are either not bedded down, or not even begun?

Answer:

The changes announced in the 2015-16 Budget to increase consumer choice in home care respond to calls from the National Aged Care Alliance and are consistent with the recommendations made by the Productivity Commission in its 2011 report. The changes are a key step in moving to a less regulated, more consumer-driven and market based aged care system.

The changes will be implemented in stages, commencing from February 2017, with a second stage planned from July 2018. This timeframe will allow recent changes to be bedded down. There will also be significant consultation with stakeholders on the design and implementation of the changes announced in the Budget.