

**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: SQ15-000398**

**Topic: Workforce Development**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Helen Polley asked:**

Please provide details of meetings by the Department with the various Unions, including dates, duration, which Unions and the various topics of discussion.

Please provide details of meetings by the Assistant Minister with the various Unions, including dates, duration, which Unions and the various topics of discussion.

**Answer:**

The Department did not have any specific meetings with Union groups to discuss the Stocktake.

The Aged Care Workforce Advisory Group (the Advisory Group), a sub-group of the Aged Care Sector Committee, was established to bring together key stakeholders in the aged care sector to provide advice to the Department about the Stocktake and Analysis of Commonwealth-funded Aged Care Workforce Activities.

The Federal Secretary for the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Association was a member of the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group met three times (19 December 2014; 6 February 2015; 2 March 2015).

The Aged Care Sector Committee (the Committee) provides advice to the Government on aged care policy development and implementation and helps to guide the future reform of the aged care system. The Committee also acts as the mechanism for consultation between the Australian Government and the aged care sector.

Membership of the Committee is representative of the sector and is drawn from organisations representing providers across residential and home care; for-profit and not-for-profit providers; and consumer and workforce representatives. It includes a member representing the National Aged Care Alliance.

The National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) is a representative body of peak national organisations in aged care, including consumer groups, providers, unions and health professionals. DSS provides funding to COTA Australia on behalf of NACA to support a number of associated advisory groups supporting the implementation of the aged care changes as the principal consultative mechanism within the aged care sector.

The Minister meets regularly with the Aged Care Sector Committee (ACSC) and the NACA.