

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000615

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Aged Care Assessments

Type of Question: Hansard Page 81, 30 May 2017

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Senator POLLEY: Could you put on record the details of the characteristics that a client satisfies to have a high-priority assessment referral. What would somebody have to display to have a high-priority assessment done?

Ms Buffinton: We will take it on notice to give you the exact criteria that we use for high-priority assessment.

Answer:

Indicators of a high priority referral for a comprehensive assessment include:

- a client's safety is at risk (e.g. high risk of falls or abuse);
- there is a high likelihood that the client will be hospitalised or required to leave their current residence because they are unable to care for themselves; or
- a client's carer is unavailable.

This may be due to a crisis in the home involving either the client or the carer, or a sudden change in the client or carer's medical, physical, cognitive or psychological status. For example, rapid functional decline that without intervention places the person, and possibly their carer, at immediate risk.