

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000617

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: National Queue Process

Type of Question: Hansard Page 85, 30 May 2017

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: The upshot is that you cannot tell me at the moment—

Ms Buffinton: No, because at the moment, genuinely, people are still putting things into the system. I think it is fair to say that we have been going to a lot of trouble to inform providers of how the new IT systems are developing. They have also been learning and getting to their front line how to use the new system. Understanding consumer behaviour has also been something that we have been learning about, and I am happy to discuss a little of the work that we have been doing on that. But it is as you would expect with something that is a big, dramatic change. As of today, it is three months that we have been operating. It is operating well. We have people who are in home care. We are also learning a lot about what we thought behaviours would be and we are discovering that some of those things are confirmed and some are different to what we thought.

Senator SIEWERT: You will have that first lot of figures available before next estimates. So could you take on notice to provide those figures once they become available.

Ms Buffinton: Yes.

Answer:

The Department of Health intends to make public, early in the second half of the year, reporting on the Home Care Packages Program available. This will include available data from 27 February to 30 June 2017. The Department will provide the report before the next estimates hearing.

Reporting will be quarterly thereafter. The 1 July to 30 September 2017 data is expected to be released by the end of October 2017.