

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000815

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: ACAR - decision process

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Can you detail the process for the allocation of the ACAR? Can you confirm that the Minister has no input into the allocation of the ACAR? Is the Minister required to accept the advice from the department regarding the allocation of the ACAR?

Answer:

The Aged Care Approval Round (ACAR) is conducted in accordance with the *Aged Care Act 1997* and the Aged Care Principles. The legislation sets out a three level process:

- Level 1: the number of places in each jurisdiction is created by the Minister (based on modelling by the Department of Health (the Department)), through a Ministerial Determination. This Determination is published on the Department's website;
- Level 2: the Secretary of the Department (the Secretary) distributes the places within states and territories, this is followed by an Invitation to Apply; and
- Level 3: the Secretary allocates those places to specific providers after a competitive selection process. Applications are assessed in accordance with the criteria specified in the legislation.

The competitive assessment and allocation process for the ACAR is conducted solely by the Department, the Minister has no involvement.