

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000829

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: ACAT and RAS Assessments - Priority Criteria

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Can you explain the criteria used to classify clients as low, medium and high priority assessment referrals and explain what a typical customer at each priority level would look like?

Answer:

Indicators of low priority clients are:

- having sufficient support available but requiring an assessment in anticipation of future care requirements.

For example, a person with cognitive issues who has a stable care arrangement, but the carer wishes to plan some episodes of residential respite care over the upcoming months.

Indicators of medium priority clients are:

- progressive deterioration in the client's physical, mental or functioning status; or
- the level of care currently available to the client does not meet their needs or is not sustainable in the long-term.

For example, a person has a care arrangement in place which is subject to change in the medium term, requiring the person to need access to formal aged care services.

Indicators of high priority clients are:

- the 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
- the 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.