

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000838

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Aged Care workforce growth planning

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Can you provide any work the Department has undertaken on growing the aged care workforce to meet the future demands of the sector over the next three decades? Particularly in relation to wages, training and conditions?

Answer:

The Department has not undertaken any work on growing the aged care workforce. However, the Department is currently assisting the sector to establish an industry-led taskforce (taskforce). The taskforce will develop an aged care workforce strategy which will consider short, medium and long term options to boost supply, and address demand and productivity issues for the aged care workforce.

The taskforce will consider the recommendations from the recent Senate Inquiry into 'the future of Australia's aged care sector workforce' Report.

This proposal is in addition to the Boosting the Local Care Workforce initiative which harnesses existing employment services to match local job seekers to local jobs and creates regional and specialist coordinators to assist National Disability Insurance Scheme and aged care providers to grow their businesses and employ more workers.