

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000839

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** Aged Care Workforce Shortages

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Is the Department aware of whether there are workforce shortages around the country? If so, where are they, and what is the Department doing about it?

**Answer:**

The 2016 National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey (the Census and Survey) contains data on staffing within residential aged care which is available by remoteness area for the following measures:

- proportion of residential facilities reporting skill shortages by location and occupation affected; and
- average and median vacancy duration (weeks) for residential Registered Nurses and Personal Care Assistants.

The Census and Survey also indicates the proportion of residential facilities that nominated “Geographic location of facility” as the cause of the shortage.

Further information the Census and Survey can be found on the Department of Health website at <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/news-and-resources/publications/2016-national-aged-care-workforce-census-and-survey-the-aged-care-workforce-2016>

The aged care workforce strategy (to be developed by an industry led taskforce) will address short, medium and long term options to boost supply and address demand and productivity issues for the aged care workforce arising for diverse providers and various occupational groups.