

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000859

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

**Topic:** HCP - wait times

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Can you provide the average (mean and median) expected wait time by level of home care packages at 30 June 2017? Can you further provide this data broken down by priority in the national queue (e.g.. Low, medium, high, very high)?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health does not calculate average expected wait times. However, the Department will provide consumers with their individual expected wait times early in the second half of the year.

To assist consumers who have not yet been approved for home care to understand wait times, the Department will also provide information on maximum expected wait times, aggregated by package level. This will show how long a consumer joining the bottom of the medium queue will need to wait to access care.