

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000863

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Residential Care - Mental Health

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

The Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce is reviewing the MBS to ensure it reflects current best clinical practice and promotes the provision of health services that improve health outcomes. Can you provide the advice you gave to the Taskforce in regards to aged care services?

Answer:

The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review is an independent, clinician-led process with strategic oversight by a Taskforce comprising senior clinicians, health policy academics and a consumer representative.

To undertake the detailed review of individual MBS items, the Taskforce established clinical committees with expertise in specific areas of clinical practice. As at 19 June 2017, 17 clinical committees have been established, many with working groups. These committees have reviewed, or are in the process of reviewing, around 57 per cent of the over 5,700 MBS items. There are around 450 leading clinicians on the committees as well as consumer representation.

The Taskforce has yet to establish any clinical committees that have examined MBS items or rules that are specific to aged care services.