

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000866

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

**Topic:** Aged Care Accreditation - Privatisation

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Can you provide an update on privatisation of accreditation services in aged care? Which elements of accreditation is the Department considering privatising? (e.g. site audits) Will the ACACQ remain the sole agency that can grant accreditation to providers? How will the department maintain standards and quality across the sector with privatised services?

**Answer:**

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government committed to work with the sector to deliver a private market for accreditation services.

The Department of Health commenced preliminary discussions with the sector in late 2015. The sector's view was that an accreditation market should not occur prior to the development of consolidated aged care standards.

Advice will be provided to Government on a private market once the Single Aged Care Quality Framework has been introduced. The Single Aged Care Quality Framework will include a single set of aged care standards.

The Department will work with the aged care sector in developing recommendations on the privatisation of accreditation. To date, no decision has been made regarding the scope of a private market.