

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000869

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Single Quality Standards

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Given the significant failings of the current accreditation process do you not think the development of a single set of standards should be halted and a new approach developed in response to the findings of the independent report?

Answer:

The health, safety and wellbeing of older people who reside in aged care services is of paramount importance to the Australian Government.

In response to recent quality of care issues, an independent review of the Commonwealth's national aged care quality regulatory processes has been commissioned to consider the accreditation, monitoring, review, investigation, complaints and compliance processes to ensure that the regulatory system in residential aged care works effectively.

It would be inappropriate for the Department of Health to speculate or pre-empt the findings of the Review of National Aged Care Quality Regulatory Processes. The Department will not be looking to finalise work on the single set of aged care standards until the review has reported.