

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000992

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

**Topic:** Home Care Packages - Assessment Delays

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Given the significant and varied delays on ACAT assessments will the Department consider backdating priority to the date consumers are referred for an assessment, not the date they are approved for a package?

**Answer:**

No. A consumer's place in the national prioritisation queue for a home care package is based on the date they were approved for care (at a specific level) and their priority for home care services, both of which are determined through a comprehensive assessment from an Aged Care Assessment Team. This approach was designed in collaboration with the sector. There are no plans to change these legislative requirements, as outlined in the *Aged Care Act 1997*.