

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-001003

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

**Topic:** Health Care Packages - Fee transparency

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

What percentage of providers have supplied information on their pricing and 'average percentage of package available for service' on the My Aged Care home care service finder? If the current lack of pricing information persists on My Aged Care will the department compel providers to provide this information so the site can function as a useful source of comparison for consumers?

**Answer:**

Data on the number of providers who have supplied pricing information on the Home Care Package service finder is not currently available.

The maximum exit amount is the only mandatory field in the Home Care Package service finder. The other fields, including pricing, are not mandatory. However the fields were developed in consultation with the sector (including consumers and providers) to increase transparency for consumers, assisting them to make informed decisions, based on needs and preferences, on their service provider.

The Department of Health, along with peak bodies Aged and Community Services Australia and Leading Age Services Australia, have been encouraging providers to complete all fields in the service finder. Providers can also include a link from the service finder to their website for more detailed information on their pricing.

The approach to the service finder is consistent with the Australian Government's approach to reducing regulation and encouraging businesses to operate in a market-based system. The Department will continue to consult with consumers, and work closely with the sector, to collaborate on ways to increase the meaningfulness and ease of navigation of information on My Aged Care.