

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-272

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: REVIEWS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Please indicate all reviews currently regarding ageing, aged care and population ageing.

In relation to each, please outline:

- a) the status of each report
- b) is it intended that the report be released and if so, when?
- c) If it is not intended that the report is released, why not?

Answer:

a) The Department is currently conducting two aged care reviews:

- The Review of the Aged Care Funding Instrument; and
- The Review of the Accreditation Standards and the accreditation process.

A formal review of the new funding tool for aged care, the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) is being conducted by the Department. The Review has sought input from key stakeholders through established ACFI Reference Groups and the general public in a call for submissions.

The Department has finalised its analysis of submissions to the Review and has undertaken extensive data analysis. It is envisaged that a final report of the ACFI Review will be submitted to Government in the near future.

The Review of Accreditation comprises two components:

- a review of the accreditation process, and
- a review of the Accreditation Standards (the Standards).

In reviewing the accreditation process, the Department sought public and aged care sector submissions on options to enhance the accreditation process. These submissions have informed proposed changes to the *Accreditation Grants Principles 1999*, which seek to enhance consumer engagement, simplify administrative processes and reduce the regulatory burden on approved providers.

The draft Standards have been presented to the sector for consultation and discussion, and feedback received is currently being considered.

- b) Any decision regarding the release of the reports is a matter for the Government.
- c) See the answer to b) above.