

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-301

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE APPROVALS ROUND

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Further to questions at Senate Estimates, please provide a list of the current special needs groups and the date when each category was added to the group.
- b) Outline the obligations on providers in relation to special needs groups including notification of change of requirements on providers in relation to the addition of each of the categories to the group.
- c) Are there any specific and additional requirements imposed on providers in relation to special needs aged care recipients that are not required for other aged care recipients.

Answer:

a)

Special needs group	Date
People from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	1 October 1997
People from non-English speaking backgrounds	1 October 1997
People who live in people in rural or remote areas	1 October 1997
People who are financially or socially disadvantaged	1 October 1997
People who are veterans	29 May 2001
People who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless	1 June 2009
People who are care leavers	2 December 2009

- b) Approved providers seeking allocations of places are required to demonstrate how they will tailor service delivery to meet the particular care needs of people with special needs and to provide evidence of the links they have established with relevant communities and key organisations to facilitate the provision of appropriate aged care for these special needs groups.

The Accreditation Standards set out in the *Aged Care Act 1997* (the Act) and the associated Quality of Care and User Rights Principles set out the requirements for approved providers in respect of all care recipients, including special needs groups. These standards must be applied in respect of the individual needs of each care recipient.

Since the introduction of the Act, three additional special needs groups have been added, people who are veterans (29 May 2001), people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless (1 June 2009) and people who are care leavers (2 December 2009). The Department of Health and Ageing has advised approved providers of these changes through a number of publications including the *Residential Care Manual*, the *2009-10 Aged Care Approvals Round Essential Guide* and a regular industry newsletter, *Payment Essentials*.

The *Residential Care Manual* is a plain English guide to aged care legislation and policy which is developed and updated as necessary.

The *2009-10 Aged Care Approvals Round Essential Guide*, used by applicants seeking an allocation of places in the 2009-10 Aged Care Approvals Round, featured a comprehensive explanation of the latest special needs groups (people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless and people who are care leavers) and what proposals must demonstrate in order to obtain an allocation of places.

c) No.