

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 408

Topic: Interface with Department of Health

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

As per the discussion (page 58 of Thursday's transcript)

- a) Please outline the formal processes and communication plans to ensure the ageing-health interface works effectively, in particular how the departments will work together to address areas of palliative care and dementia.
- b) On page 103 of the Department of Health and Ageing annual report ("the annual report") we discover that one key deliverable element has not been met – that is building stronger connections between the health and aged care systems. This includes promoting better practice and partnerships and providing for better palliative care and support in the aged care system. Now that aged care and health no longer fall within the same portfolio how will those targets be met? Will the Government continue to work towards achieving these targets?

Answer:

- a) Processes and communication plans to ensure the ageing-health interface works effectively are addressed in response to Question No: ES13-000418.
- b) The 2012-13 Department of Health and Ageing annual report noted models for short term, more intensive health care for aged care recipients had been funded, and that the evaluation was delayed to align with the establishment of the program which commenced in June 2013. The 2013 Health and Ageing Portfolio Budget Statement (page 128) noted that an evaluation framework will be established in 2013-14 to assess the effectiveness of funded projects.

An evaluation framework has been established, and the evaluation of the models for short-term, more intensive healthcare services has commenced.