

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

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 416

Topic: Residential Care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

In 2013-14 the department was to develop systems and processes to introduce fairer means testing for residential aged care to address increased demand for aged care due to population ageing. Where is the department at in developing these processes and systems? Will these be ready to begin on 1 July 2014?

Answer:

On 28 June 2013, the *Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Act 2013* received Royal Assent and passed into law. This Act gave effect to the new means testing arrangements due to come into effect in residential aged care and home care from 1 July 2014.

The Department is also working closely with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs which are responsible for assessing care recipients' assets and income. The Department of Human Services will continue to have responsibility for determining fees and charges and the amount of Government support for each care recipient in accordance with the legislation. All of these processes require updates to IT infrastructure.

The Department expects to have the systems and processes in place by 1 July 2014.