

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

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 422

Topic: Aged care workforce fund

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

Will the \$1.2 billion allocated for the Workforce Supplement be quarantined for aged care? Or is there an intention to use it for workforce development across both ageing and disability sectors? When will the \$1.2 billion be rolled out for aged care and what condition will be placed on its use, e.g. for wages and salaries, professional development, etc.?

Answer:

Funding for the Aged Care Workforce Supplement was revised to \$1.1 billion in the 2013-14 Budget. This revision was due to the net effect of the expansion of the scope of the measure to include the Veterans' Home Care (VHC) and Community Nursing programs, administered by the Veterans' Affairs portfolio and a reduction in the measure to ensure that aged care providers whose employees were paid under state and territory awards or agreements were not eligible for the Supplement.

The Government has committed to taking the necessary steps to put back into the general pool of aged care funding the \$1.1 billion (over four years from 2013-14) allocated to the Supplement. The Government will work with the sector to ensure that available funding is distributed in a way that is flexible and better targeted.