

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross Outcome - Across Programs

**Question No:** 90

**Topic:** Non-Conventional Therapies

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

Since 7 September 2013:

1. Are non-conventional therapies, for staff or ministerial use, able to be provided by the department/agency? (Including, but not limited to: Music Therapy, Hypnosis, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, etc). If yes:
  - a. What is the process by which these therapies can be approved?
  - b. Who are they available to?
  - c. Please detail the reasons the therapies able to be provided (e.g. Work Place Agreement, recommended by a report to the department, etc)?

**Answer:**

**Department of Social Services**

1. No.

**Aged Care Commissioner**

1. No.

**Aged Care Pricing Commissioner**

1. No.

**Aged Care Quality Agency**

1. Yes.
  - a. All staff are entitled to a \$200 per annum healthy lifestyle claim. If a claim is made by an employee for non-conventional therapies the Quality Agency would reimburse the staff member's claim.
  - b. All Quality Agency employees.
  - c. Any employee can provide a claim for these non-conventional therapies. It would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to answer this question in full.

**Australian Institute of Family Studies**

1. No.

**National Disability Insurance Agency**

1. No.

**Social Security Appeals Tribunal**

1. No.