

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

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 410

Topic: Aged Persons- Homelessness

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McLucas asked:

The FAQs for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme note that the Department is seeking feedback about whether this program should remain part of CHSP or be a separate program.

- a. Please provide an overview of the feedback received.
- b. What is the Government's response to this feedback?
- c. Has the government made an organisational decision about this program?
- d. If so what was the decision?
- e. If not, when is a decision likely to be communicated to stakeholders?

Answer:

The Department released the *Key Directions for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme- Discussion Paper* on 20 May 2014. Feedback was sought through a public consultation process which ran for six weeks to 30 June 2014.

The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) Discussion Paper canvassed a number of potential models for the Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program including whether it should be a separate program, part of the linking service capability, a stand-alone programme or an outcome/service type within CSHP.

While differing views were expressed, the majority of submissions advocated for the strengths of the ACHA Program to be retained, regardless of its positioning. ACHA providers contributed to the National Aged Care Alliance (NACA) response to the Discussion Paper advocating for a series of principles to be maintained in the future. The NACA response to the discussion paper is available on the NACA website at <http://www.naca.asn.au/publications.html>

On 18 December 2015, Minister Fifield confirmed the final design of the CHSP. The department wrote to providers with further information, which included advice that the CHSP will be structured to support four main sub-programmes, one of which is 'Assistance with Care and Housing'. This sub-programme will retain the strengths of the ACHA Program and will support vulnerable clients to remain in the community through accessing appropriate, sustainable and affordable housing and linking them where appropriate, to community care and other support services. More information about the sub-programmes will be available in the draft Programme Manual, which is expected to be available for comment shortly.