

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

Outcome Number: 3 - Ageing

Question No: 428

Topic: Dementia and Severe Behaviour Supplement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

- a) A Departmental Minute of 4 February 2014 states that "...the Department will initially contact a small number of approved providers seeking supporting documentation". Which providers did you contact?
- b) What did you learn from these providers?
- c) How did this information inform the decision-making of the Department?

Answer:

- a) Prior to intended contact with approved providers, the Department again met with members of the previous Dementia and Veterans' Supplements Working Group and clinical experts on 14 April 2014 and sought their views and advice on the claim rates. Clinicians reconfirmed their advice that actual claiming rates were not in line with the expectations of the number of people expected to attract the Supplement.
- b) Based on these discussions, it was determined that undertaking reviews of claims would be complex, time consuming, resource intensive and would require clinical experts to be directed from existing priorities. It was also noted that the time required to undertake reviews would delay any decision in relation to the supplement and delay would have budget implications which were estimated to be in the order of \$150 million in 2014-15. As a result, it was decided that a review of claims would not be conducted and, therefore, there was no consultation regarding the review.
- c) This information was confirmed as part of a subsequent meeting on 19 June 2014 with members of the previous Dementia and Veterans' Supplements Working Group and expert clinicians. The minutes of this meeting note the difficulties in conducting a review of individual claims (see Document 25 of the Department's response to Freedom of Information request 14/15-014).