Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3 - Ageing Question No: 429

Topic: Dementia and Severe Behaviours Supplement Implementation

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

When the Treasurer presented MYEFO did it take into account additional funding for the Dementia and Severe Behaviours Supplement? If not, why not?

Answer:

Estimates for residential aged care expenditure on the Dementia and Severe Behaviours Supplement (DSBS) were not increased as part of the 2013-14 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) as the Department did not have reliable data on the higher than expected uptake at that time.

In February 2014, the expenditure estimates for the DSBS were increased by \$81.2 million in 2013-14 and \$21.4 million in 2014-15 in response to the higher than expected uptake. These increases were included in the figures published in the 2014-15 budget papers.

On 4 February 2015, Minister Fifield announced that \$54.5 million over four years, equivalent to the original DSBS allocation from 2015-16 to 2018-19, was being allocated to establish Sever Behaviour Response Teams.