

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

Outcome Number: 3- Ageing

Question No: 442

Topic: Home Care Package Assessments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

- a. Concerning the levels of home care packages, what monitoring of this is taking place?
- b. What is happening to ensure the assessments are accurate and the appropriate care packages are being delivered?

Answer:

- a. Once allocated, approved providers that have home care packages are monitored through a quality review process that occurs every three years. This process, previously undertaken by the Department of Social Services, is now undertaken by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency.
- b. The distribution of home care packages to meet the Government's planning target is managed through the Aged Care Approvals Round.

Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACATs) conduct assessments for approval of Australian Government subsidised aged care provided under the *Aged Care Act 1997* (Aged Care Act) including residential aged care, residential respite care, Home Care packages and transition care.

To ensure accurate and consistent assessments, the Department of Social Services supports the ACATs through a National Training Strategy, Aged Care Assessment Programme (ACAP) Guidelines, regular information dissemination and ongoing engagement.

The role of the ACAP is around assessment and approval for subsidised aged care and does not include the monitoring of the quality of service provided by the Home Care package provider.