

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

**Outcome Number:** 3

**Question No:** 443

**Topic:** Home Care Packages

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Polley** asked:

- a. What areas have been identified as not having enough level 3 or 4 packaged available?
- b. What is being done to address this?
- c. Have recommendations been made to the Minister?

**Answer:**

a. No specific geographical areas were identified in the 2014 ACAR as being in specific need of Level 3 and Level 4 home care packages.

b. The Australian Government allocated a total of 6,653 new home care places in the 2014 Aged Care Approvals round (ACAR), an increase of approximately 14% over the 5,835 new places allocated in the previous ACAR. Of the 6,653 places allocated, 3,864 were allocated as Level 3 and 4. The allocation of these places was distributed across aged care planning regions that had the highest need.

The number of home care places is increasing, as is availability of places in priority areas. However, the advertised regional availability of the places may not represent the final distribution of places allocated in the ACAR, but is intended as broad guidance for applicants. The final distribution is dependent on a range of factors, including the number and quality of applications received and the identified need within planning regions.

c. Decision making powers under the *Aged Care Act 1997* rest with the Department. The Minister was informed of the outcomes of the 2014 ACAR following the finalisation of the process.