ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3 - Ageing   **Question No:** 471

Topic: Viability Supplement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

a. How many aged care residents in regional, rural and remote aged care facilities are receiving the Viability Supplement?
b. How many facilities, by state and territory, have residents that are in receipt of the Viability Supplement?
c. What is the average funding amount of supplement received by those facilities?
d. Is there any evidence to show that the recent increase to the Viability Supplement has improved the viability of these facilities?
e. If so, could you provide any evidence of this?

Answer:

a) On 30 June 2014, residential aged care providers received the viability supplement on behalf of care recipients in regional, rural and remote services as follows*:
- Inner regional – 3,045 care recipients
- Outer regional – 7,607 care recipients
- Remote – 960 care recipients
- Very remote - 310 care recipients

*Please note these figures are categorised as per the domains listed in the question. Eligibility for payment is categorised according to the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) classification.

b) In the 2013-14 financial year a total of 418 residential aged care services received the viability supplement. The number of aged care services who received the supplement by state and territory is as follows:
- NSW – 105
- VIC – 96
- QLD – 97
- SA – 53
- WA – 30
- TAS – 23
- ACT – 0
- NT – 14

c) The average annual viability supplement funding received per eligible residential aged care service in the 2013-14 financial year was $71,346.

d) On 1 July 2014, as part of the repurposing of the workforce supplement funding to the sector, the viability supplement payable to eligible facilities increased by 20%. Information on the impact of this increase is not currently available.

e) Not applicable.