

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

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 547

Topic: Disability and carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Has the Department received any representations from Carers Australia or other carer organisations about the changes to the indexation of pensions announced in the 2014 Budget? If so, what organisations? Were any made through other consultations or meetings?

Answer:

Carers Australia attended Department of Social Services Budget Measures 2014 implementation stakeholder consultations in June 2014. While no verbatim records were made of these consultations, indexation arrangements were raised by Carers Australia at the meeting on 18 June 2014.

Carers Australia and a number of state and territory carer associations (list attached) also attended roundtable consultations with the Welfare Reform Reference Group in all capital cities and Cairns, in July-August 2014. While no verbatim records were made of these consultations, indexation arrangements were discussed at the meetings, which could have included representations by Carers Australia and other carer associations.

Carers Australia and Carers New South Wales provided submissions in August 2014 in response to the Welfare Reform Reference Group's Interim Report, which included their views on pension indexation.

The Department is aware of Carer Australia's submission to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs inquiry into the Social Services and other Legislation (2014 Budget measures) Amendment Bills No. 1 and No. 2, which includes commentary on the measure to index pensions by CPI only.

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Roundtable consultations with the Welfare Reform Reference Group

Canberra 11 July 2014
Carers Australia

Adelaide 18 July 2014
Carer Support and Respite Centre Inc.
Carers Association of South Australia

Melbourne 4 August 2014
Carers Victoria

Perth 15 August 2014
Carers Western Australia