

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000892

OUTCOME: 11 – Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Home Care Packages

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

There has been a discrepancy in the take up of certain packages. Has the Department considered allowing providers to trade in levels 1 and 2 packages for higher level packages?

Answer:

The Government is committed to increasing the number of home care packages from around 72,000 to around 100,000 nationally by 2017.

A key focus of the 2015 Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) is the release of significantly more Level 3 and Level 4 home care places than were made available in the 2014 ACAR. The 6,045 home care places include 5,595 level 3 and 4 packages. This is an increase of 1,729 (45 per cent) places compared to the number of Level 3 and 4 places allocated through the 2014 ACAR.

The sector was consulted on the general distribution of places and specifically on the increased Level 3 and 4 packages, and supported this approach.