

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000895

OUTCOME: 11 – Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Disability and Residential Care

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

- a) What is being done to address the needs of people with disability, aged over 65 years and living in residential aged care facilities? In particular, age-related disabilities such as vision and hearing loss, neurological impairment, decreased mobility.
- b) What support is available for resident requiring specialist services to address these needs? In particular, how is this addressed in regional and rural communities?
- c) How are these services funded?

Answer:

All residents of aged care facilities over 65, regardless of whether they have a disability or not, are entitled to access health practitioners (including optometrists, audiologists and psychiatrists) or specialised therapy services (which can include physiotherapy, exercise physiologists and diversional therapists) of their choice. Providers are required to facilitate the resident's access to these services. Approved providers cannot charge for organising this access.

Residents may have access to services funded through Medicare, or their own personal health insurance, or pay for services themselves.