

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000719

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Increasing Choice in Home Care reform

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

What factors are being used to determine priority of access to home care packages in the new national prioritisation system? What processes have been put in place to ensure the system is transparent, equitable and open to review?

Answer:

- From 27 February 2017, the national prioritisation system will assign packages to consumers who have been approved for home care and have advised of their interest in seeking services.
- The national prioritisation system aims to provide equitable access to home care and allow for a fair method of distributing packages, whilst operating within expenditure forecasts.
- A consumer's position queued in the prioritisation system will be dependent on:
 - their relative needs and circumstances as determined through the comprehensive assessment, including priority rating, undertaken by an Aged Care Assessment Team; and
 - the time they have been waiting for care since approval.
- A consumer's priority rating will be determined through an assessment of needs across a set of criteria, including physical, medical, social and psychological factors, as well as any other complex or vulnerable considerations.
- A performance monitoring and reporting framework will monitor the outcomes of the prioritisation process and ensure that all consumers are able to access care in an equitable manner.
- The Department of Health intends to provide stakeholders with a range of information on the performance of the new arrangements, following a transition period to stabilise systems and data.
- This monitoring and reporting will provide transparency to the public and will also allow the Department to make changes where required.