

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000740

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Myagedcare

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Can you detail how the decision was made to only list some allied health professions on the My Aged Care Service Finder? Speech Pathology Australia has raised concerns regarding the current functionality of the My Aged Care Service Finder, which displays only a sub-set of non-commonwealth funded allied health services (i.e. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and podiatry). Speech pathologists are in the main, not listed on the Service Finder. Can you explain why this is the case? Are there any plans to change this set up? Is there any plan to list speech pathologists, or any other allied health professions in the future, and if so, when?

Answer:

Initially, the My Aged Care service finder only included services that were subsidised or funded by the Commonwealth. A decision was made to expand the service finder to incorporate privately funded services. This has been achieved by using the services registered through the National Health Services Directory (NHSD), which includes privately funded services. A staged approach is being adopted to rolling out information from the NHSD onto My Aged Care. To date, this has seen the inclusion of privately funded aged care homes, domestic assistance and three allied health services that are heavily utilised:

- Physiotherapy;
- Podiatry; and
- Occupational Therapy.

The number and type of service categories displayed on My Aged Care will be extended over time.

The timing and final decision to introduce these additional service categories will be considered in conjunction with other updates to My Aged Care website functionality.