



**Senator the Hon Anne Ruston**

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**Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care  
Shadow Minister for Sport  
Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate  
Senator for South Australia**

20 October 2023

Mr Blair Comley PSM  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Aged Care  
Via email: [blair.comley@health.gov.au](mailto:blair.comley@health.gov.au)

*Blair*

Dear Secretary Comley,

While we understand that you and your Department will attend Senate Estimates with detailed information regarding the operations of the Department of Health and Aged Care and portfolio agencies, I write to request that the Department provides the following specific information prior to your attendance before the Community Affairs Committee.

A breakdown of current care workforce numbers across Australia, including registered nurses, enrolled nurses, general practitioners, disability care workers, and aged care workers.

The forecast gap of registered nurses required in residential aged care homes from now until 1 October 2024 when the next care minutes requirements come into effect.

An update in the exact same format to SQ23-000561, and SQ23-001647 from 1 June 2023 to now.

Noting that providers do provide their balance sheets to the Department of Health and Aged Care, and provide quarterly financial updates, can you provide a de-identified list of all the outstanding Covid Aged Care Support Program grants and how much is owed to each provider? Please provide this update in the same format as SQ23-000558 'Attachment A', including a total of how many grants and what value of grants have been repaid since this QoN was tabled.

A copy of the eighth community pharmacy agreement non-disclosure agreement.

A list of COVID-19 Vaccination rates consolidated by month since 1 July 2022 broken down by State and Territory, aged group and in residential aged care facilities.

Aged Care COVID-19 mortality data, per month since 1 July 2022.

Please note that this list of topics is not exhaustive, and Opposition Senators will have other questions referring to expenditure across the Department of Health and Aged Care and Sport portfolios.

Thank you in advance.

Kind Regards,

 Anne Ruston