

## House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs

Written Question on Notice – 04 September 2023

### ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Inquiry into recognition of unpaid carers

**Question reference number:** IQ23-000077

**Question asked by:** Peta Murphy

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Page:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 21 September 2023

#### **Question:**

What specific entities are defined as 'public service care agencies' and are obliged to report under the Carer Recognition Act 2010?

#### **Answer:**

The *Carer Recognition Act 2010* (the Act) does not specify particular agencies as 'public service care agencies'. Rather, it defines a public service care agency as a public service agency that is responsible for the development, implementation, provision or evaluation of care supports. The Act defines care supports as policies, programs or services directed to carers or the person for whom they care.

Each Australian Public Service agency self-assesses whether it is a public service care agency for the purpose of the Act.

The Department of Social Services has published [a guide for the implementation of the Carer Recognition Act](#).

The Department of Finance includes the requirement to consider reporting as a public service care agency in its guidelines for Public Service agencies in preparing annual reports. This information is included in [Resource Management Guide 136](#)

Examples of Commonwealth agencies that reported in 2021–22 include the Department of Social Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the National Disability Insurance Agency, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, the Department of Health and Aged Care and Services Australia.