

# PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health and Aged Care

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

**Inquiry into the Aged Care Amendment (Implementing Care Reform) Bill 2022**

**Spoken Questions on Notice, 25 August 2022**

PDR Number: IQ22-000052

## **Breakdown of the \$457 million funding for Aged Care**

**Spoken**

**Hansard page number:** 28-29

**Senator:** Anne Ruston

### **Question:**

Senator RUSTON: In terms of the level of detail that is required to understand this: for instance, a small nursing home in a small country area has one nurse or maybe two to do 24/7. What provisions are in place or assumed for when that nurse goes on holidays? Would that nursing home be required to get a locum in during the period that nurse was on holidays, and, if so, at what cost and whose expense?

Mr Richardson: Once again, in terms of the cost of this funding and so forth, we are working with government as part of the October budget process. What I can say is that the Parliamentary Budget Office, during the election campaign, costed the 24/7 commitment at roughly \$500 million over the forward estimates.

Senator RUSTON: Have you got a breakdown of what that \$457.8 million, or whatever it was, is?

Mr Richardson: In terms of how it was derived?

Senator RUSTON: Yes.

Mr Richardson: I could take that on notice and give you some information in that regard.

Senator RUSTON: I'm interested in the sense of: is it funding that's going to be provided to facilities that currently don't have a 24/7 nurse on site, as opposed to the ones that currently do? Is it going to rural and regional? I'd be interested to understand how you came up with \$457 million and how it was broken down.

**Answer:**

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) costed the Government's election commitment for 24/7 registered nurse care. The costings and methodology used by the PBO are publicly available at 2022 Election commitment costings – Parliament of Australia<sup>1</sup> ([aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au)).

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<sup>1</sup>[www.aph.gov.au/About Parliament/Parliamentary departments/Parliamentary Budget Office/General elections/2022 General election/2022 Election commitment costings](http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Budget_Office/General_elections/2022_General_election/2022_Election_commitment_costings)