

Senate Committee: Community Affairs Committee

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2022-2023

Outcome: 2 - Individual Health Benefits

PDR Number: SQ23-000041

Question Subject: Schedule for setting up Seniors dental scheme

Type of Question: Spoken, Hansard page, 16 February 2023

Senator: Jordon Steele-John

Question:

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Minister, the recommendation of the royal commission was really clear. What is needed here is a seniors dental benefits scheme. Your minister has not made a direction to the department to investigate the setting up of the scheme so long after the recommendation was made. Is it the intention of the government to make a commitment to such a scheme in the coming budget?

Senator McCarthy: Can I just correct you there. We've had the passage of two new acts through parliament in 2022, combined with measures from the October '22-23 budget, which will address in full or in part a total of 37 recommendations. As at 27 January this year, as we've heard, 19 recommendations are completed; 107 recommendations are in progress; and for the remaining 22 recommendations the department is working with government on its reform priorities and to determine whether further action is required. So, we are working on it. I cannot stress enough that this body of work is being done.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Specifically, though, on the seniors dental benefits scheme, are you saying that there is work being done and the government is expecting a recommendation to be made to it in relation to the setting up of that scheme?

Senator McCarthy: Certainly the minister and the department are working on it. I'm happy to get the latest updated information for you in terms of that specific question.

Answer:

Recommendation 60 of the Aged Care Royal Commission is subject to further consideration by Government.