

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-085

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: COMMUNITY CARE QUALITY – QUALITY REVIEW PROCESS

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Senator Adams asked:

Why would the accreditation agency not be able to carry out those duties? They already have training. They are training your employees. It seems almost duplication.

Answer:

In the 2004-05 Budget the then Australian Government took the decision to have Department of Health and Ageing officers conduct quality reviews under the Quality Reporting Program for community aged care.

Community aged care sector feedback indicated support for this approach given the differences between community care and residential care. The approach also promoted consistency with the quality assurance processes that were already in operation for the Home and Community Care program administered by the states and territories.

Training for Commonwealth and state and territory government quality reviewers was required as part of the implementation of the Community Care Common Standards framework and nationally consistent quality review processes from 1 March 2011.

The Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency was engaged to develop the training program and facilitate the training for Commonwealth and state and territory Quality Reviewers. This reflects the Agency's experience and skills in developing and delivering training programs rather than specific knowledge of quality reviewing in community care. The Agency develops and delivers training programs in relation to a diverse range of topics. The development of this program was heavily supported by content experts from the sector and the facilitation was lead by contractors with relevant expertise.