

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2010-11, 23 February 2011

Question: E11-134

OUTCOME 4: Population and Ageing

Topic: AGED CARE QUALITY STANDARDS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Where is the review of the aged care quality standards at, when is the report due and what consultation process is proposed with the industry?

Answer:

The Community Care Common Standards were implemented on 1 March 2011.

The Department of Health and Ageing (the Department) has circulated a draft set of revised residential aged care Accreditation Standards (the Standards) to the sector for consultation and discussion.

The Department has worked closely with a Technical Reference Group (TRG) and the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency (Agency) to develop the draft Standards. The TRG includes industry representatives.

Initial consultation has been undertaken through the Ageing Consultative Committee. Broader consultation with stakeholders has commenced with a presentation at the Tri-State Conference in Albury on 28 February 2011. Workshops will follow in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney with representatives from approved providers, peak bodies, unions, health professional organisations and consumer and carers groups.

The Department will then review the draft Standards in consultation with the TRG and the Agency to consider feedback from the workshops.

Prior to implementation, the Department anticipates a small pilot will follow to test the Standards in a range of facilities. Implementation of the Standards will then be considered in the context of the Government response to the findings of the Productivity Commission report.