

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 8

**Question No:** 559

**Topic:** Workforce Supplement

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Polley** asked:

- 1) What does the Government consider the pressing Workforce issues are in the aged care sector?
- 2) Please outline the measures the Government is taking to address the workforce issue.

**Answer:**

An appropriately skilled and well-qualified workforce is fundamental to delivering high-quality aged care services that meet the needs of older Australians. In 2012, there were over 352,100 (estimated) employees in the aged care sector and that number is expected to grow to around 827,100 in 2050.

The Australian Government has a number of initiatives in place to support the aged care workforce including initiatives through the Aged Care Workforce Fund.

The Aged Care Workforce Fund's primary objective is to improve the quality of aged care by developing the skills of the aged care workforce by providing a range of training, education and support. This includes facilitating collaborations among the aged care, acute care, training and research sectors, providing targeted training strategies for priority target groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, responding to emergency issues, and supporting the introduction of innovative practices in aged care.