

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000083

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** Depression in Aged Care Residents

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 128, 1 March 2017

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Senator POLLEY: I just want to follow-up on the mental health issues. Back in 2012, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) found that more than half of all permanent aged-care residents had mild, moderate or major symptoms of depression. I think at that time this figure was fairly conservative. Have you got any updated data as to how many residential older Australians living in aged-care homes have mild or other mental health issues, particularly around depression?

Dr McCarthy: We would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The AIHW has advised that 60% of people in permanent residential aged care at 30 June 2015 had mild, moderate or major symptoms of depression on the Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (CSDD). These analyses were carried out using data from the Aged Care Funding Instrument.