

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000184

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

**Topic:** Home Care Packages

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

In relation to the recent changes to home care packages, why is there no requirement for the hourly rate of care for each provider to be stipulated online so that consumers can properly compare providers?

**Answer:**

The reforms to home care provide opportunities for providers to be more innovative in their pricing structure in order to better meet the needs and expectations of their clients. The consultation and co-design process with consumer and provider peak organisations to develop the service finders found that the percentage of package administered costs was more relevant to consumers than hourly rates of care.

Whilst declaring the maximum exit amount is a legislative requirement, the service finder provides an opportunity for providers to outline their costs for service delivery. In many cases, providers have developed innovative pricing structures e.g. blocks of time or off peak costs etc. This supports the conclusion of the consultation process that hourly rates of care is not an efficient way of costing care.