

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000267

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

- a) How does the Government measure unmet demand for CHSP services? And can you provide details of unmet demand by service type for each electorate and aged care planning region?
- b) How is the Government addressing areas with significant unmet demand for CHSP services?

Answer:

a) The Government consults with service providers and key stakeholders to identify gaps in services provided under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). The Department of Health does not collect quantitative data on unmet demand by service type for each electorate and aged care planning region. My Aged Care provides access to CHSP for new clients and clients with changing needs and is therefore not a complete data set for all CHSP clients.

b) Growth funding is important to the sector's ability to respond to the evolving needs of CHSP clients and to align with the growth in Australia's population. The most recent CHSP growth funding round opened for application on 17 October 2016 and closed on 29 November 2016. Results of the round were announced on 10 March 2017.

The funding round targeted priority areas to address existing gaps in home support services across aged care planning regions for identified client groups. These priority areas were identified through a consultation process conducted by the department prior to the funding round opening.

Over one hundred CHSP service providers and key stakeholders were consulted, including: the National Aged Care Alliance, the Aged Care Sector Committee, Aged and Community Services Australia, a range of Regional Assessment Services, Primary Health Networks and the Municipal Association of Victoria.