

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000293

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Home Care

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

How many people are currently on the waitlist for a package, broken down by state/territory and package level?

Answer:

The new national prioritisation system will for the first time enable demand for home care to be measured. This is because the new system recognises that the number of consumers approved for home care does not necessarily reflect the number of consumers actively seeking a home care package. Consumers approved for home care are able to opt-in and opt-out of the new system as they require.

To ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements, consumers with a recent home care approval were initially automatically placed in the new system on 27 February 2017. As a result, the number of consumers in the national prioritisation system is currently stabilising.

The number of consumers on the waitlist and expected wait times will be made publicly available when the Department of Health is confident that the data is accurate, reliable and useful to consumers and the sector. This is expected in the second half of 2017.