

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000297

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

**Topic:** Home Care

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Can you confirm the date that determines where a client sits on the national prioritisation system? Is it the date a client is approved for an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessment, or the date a client is approved for a home care package? If it is the date they receive their home care approval, what is the government doing to ensure that people in areas with significant ACAT waitlists will not be disadvantaged by being prioritised behind people in areas with no ACAT waitlist?

**Answer:**

A client's place in the national queue is determined by the date that they were approved for home care and their priority for home care services as determined by the comprehensive assessment undertaken by an ACAT. The ACAT can also approve a client for other care types such as Commonwealth Home Support Programme services or Residential Care.

The Australian Government funds state and territory governments to administer the Aged Care Assessment Programme. The Department of Health continues to work with state and territory ACAT managers under this agreement to ensure there is a nationally consistent process for assessment.