

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000298

OUTCOME: 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

Topic: Home Care

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

How will the portability of home packages impact the aged care workforce? Are the industrial instruments still fit for purpose, given the growing need for flexibility and the lack of security for workers? Is the government considering any reforms in this area as a result?

Answer:

The changes applied from 27 February 2017 in home care allows consumers to choose and direct package funding to the provider that best meets their needs.

This gives home care providers the opportunity to expand their businesses to meet local demand and consumer expectations including developing more innovative service delivery models.

Substantial lead time was allowed so that the sector and providers could consider implementation arrangements, including their service delivery strategies and any related workforce issues.