

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 3**

**Question No: 375**

**Topic: Carers**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

The National Respite for Carers Programme will not proceed from 2013-14.

- (a) How many people use this programme currently?
- (b) Has the Department access to information about the impact on other community or health services by disestablishing the program?
- (c) Is the government providing other support to carers to replace this measure, and if so, at what expense compared to the budget savings from cutting the National Respite for Carers Programme?

**Answer:**

The National Respite for Carers Programme will continue in 2014-15.

Funding arrangements for NRCP service providers have been extended one year from 30 June 2014 to 30 June 2015, to coincide with the introduction of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. The extension of funding arrangements will not result in any interruption to service delivery.

In 2012–13, 110,371 carers received assistance through the NRCP, including:

- 30,334 carers who received respite services;
- 74,124 carers who received information, carer support and emergency respite through Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres; and
- 5,913 carers who received counselling services.

*Source: 2012-13 Report on the Operation of the Aged Care Act 1997 (pg. 42)*