

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

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 471

Topic: Workforce and Quality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

Please provide details of other options considered for the repurposing of the Workforce Supplement and the basis for which they were rejected.

- a .What input did the Minister and Assistant Minister have in this process?
- b. Was the consultation that was undertaken sufficient to consider the full, wide range of stakeholder interests and views?

Answer:

The Government commenced consultations with key stakeholders in December 2013. A Roundtable discussion was held on 3 February 2014 where options for repurposing the Workforce Supplement funding were considered. Participants included peak bodies; providers across residential and home care; large for-profit and not-for-profit providers; consumers; carers and workforce representatives. Minister Andrews and Assistant Minister Fifield attended the Roundtable and discussed the views presented by participants.

The views expressed were considered by the Government in making the decision on how to repurpose the Workforce Supplement funding. Options considered by Government in the Budget context cannot be disclosed as they are part of the deliberative processes of Government.