

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

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 472

Topic: Workforce and Quality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

Please provide details on how the Department will monitor workforce issues?

Answer:

As announced in the 2014-15 Federal Budget, the Department will undertake a stocktake of Commonwealth-funded aged care workforce initiatives funded over the last three years, including any initiatives to which the Commonwealth makes a financial contribution. The information obtained through the stocktake will identify any duplications and gaps across initiatives and synergies and areas of overlap between the aged care and disability workforces. It is anticipated that the stocktake will provide an evidence-based foundation for work to progress an aged care workforce development strategy.

The Department will engage in close consultation with the aged care sector and across government to ensure success of the stocktake and ensuing strategy development process. The Department is initially seeking to work with the Aged Care Sector Committee, through a workforce-specific working group to ensure the sector is consulted.

The National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey informs workforce planning on issues surrounding the recruitment and retention, training and education, career development and employment conditions of the aged care workforce. The results of the 2012 Census and Survey are outlined in the publicly available 2012 National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey – The Aged Care Workforce, 2012 – Final Report. The timing of a future National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey is yet to be determined.