

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

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 482

Topic: Workforce and Quality

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

Please provide details of modelling undertaken on the workforce needs moving forward.

a. How are solutions to be funded? By whom?

Answer:

In its submission to the Productivity Commission *Caring for Older Australians* enquiry (2011), the then Department of Health and Ageing estimated that there would be approximately 827,100 aged care workers (including direct care and support staff) required by 2050. This estimate assumes that the ratio of number of aged care workers to the size of the population aged 70 or over remains constant. The Productivity Commission's estimate was 980,000 based on a number of variables that are discussed in the *Caring for Older Australians* final report.

Under the *Aged Care Act 1997*, aged care providers are responsible for using Government subsidies to ensure that there are adequate numbers of appropriately skilled staff to meet the individual care needs of residents.

The Government has invested substantially in education and training for the aged care workforce. During 2014-15, a workforce development strategy will be developed which will be informed by a stocktake of Australian Government aged care workforce initiatives to ensure efficient and effective use of available workforce funding.

Aged Care providers use a combination of Australian Government funding and consumer contributions to meet the costs of providing care, including staffing costs. In 2012-13, Australian Government expenditure on aged care was a total of \$13.4 billion.