

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

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 489

Topic: Ageing and Service Improvement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

- (1) What is the Government's overarching strategy to address the issues facing the ageing population?
- (2) What opportunities are available for cross-portfolio work in this area?

Answer:

(1) The Government's overarching approach to addressing the ageing of the population focuses on boosting the three "Ps"- population, productivity and participation – and the interactions between them.

As the ageing of the population results in a lower proportion of the population in the workforce, the Government is focusing on changes to policy settings to encourage people to work and to innovate, to promote greater openness and competition in markets, and to facilitate targeted infrastructure investment.

Addressing population ageing is a whole-of-government responsibility encompassing retirement income (pensions and superannuation); participation, including employment and volunteering; age discrimination; healthy ageing, health services and medical care; aged care; and carers. Sustainability for future generations is also an integral element of the Government's overarching approach to this issue.

(2) Collaborative work is undertaken in this area across a range of portfolios including: Attorney General's Department, Department of Education, Department of Employment, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Social Services, Treasury, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.