

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

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 492

Topic: Ageing and Service Improvement

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

At a meeting with senior DSS staff in April, the industry was advised that, after 1st July 2014, prospective care recipients will be able to have a means test completed prior to entering care, and that this will remain valid for 120 days. The importance of an early means test, particularly for self-funded retirees, cannot be overstated, yet consumer and industry stakeholders have no information for this provision, nor, as far as we are aware, does any other document published by DSS or DHS.

- Can you please advise how this important provision will be promoted to consumers and to the providers, networks and agencies who are likely to interact with consumers prior to them entering aged care?

Answer:

The My Aged Care website is the entry point for Government information on aged care. The website includes information on how an individual can apply for an income and asset assessment, including links to the relevant forms on the Department of Human Services. The website also makes clear that an assessment can be requested prior to entry with the fee notification advice valid for 120 days prior to entry into care.