

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 6 May 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000371

**OUTCOME:** 6 - Ageing and Aged Care

**Topic:** Aged Care

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 61, 6 May 2016

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Senator POLLEY: I would really appreciate, if you could take it on notice and how much of that funding is left—bearing in mind that we would need to have those answers before the election is called on Sunday. If I could get that, that would be most useful. Then I would like to move on—

Senator POLLEY: Excellent, thank you. And if we would get that final amount of funding and anything else that is useful, that would be great. I will go on to my last area, which relates to workforce development. I was wondering whether or not the department is aware of any increase in the number of complaints about the quality of staff training that has been received by providers?

**Answer:**

As part of the 2012 Living Longer Living Better budget measure:

- \$41.3 million was committed to support people with dementia across the health system (including support for timely diagnosis and expansion of the Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service (DBMAS) to cover acute and primary care settings); and
- \$39.2 million to improving acute care services for people with dementia.

Funding for these two measures formed part of the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants (ACSIHAG) Fund (now the Dementia and Aged Care Services (DACS) Fund). While a number of activities and programs have been funded which specifically relate to these measures (detail on these have been previously provided in responses to SQ16-000112 and SQ 518), some of these funds have been used to address the ACSIHAG fund's broader priorities.

In both the 2014-15 and 2015-16 budgets, the ACSIHAG and DACS funds were subject to budget repair savings, as part of discretionary grant program reforms. There has, however, been a continued focus on dementia support.

As previously advised in SQ16-000112, through the ACSIHAG rounds held between 2012 and 2014, projects were sought which would trial new methods and initiatives for acute and primary care settings. While the quality and volume of submissions received did not meet initial expectations, the Department did fund four projects focused on acute care and two

projects focused on primary care, across both rounds. All of these projects will be finalised by the end of 2017, when all funds will be expended.

Regarding the workforce development query about the Department's awareness of any increase in the number of complaints about the quality of staff training that has been received by providers, there has been no increase in complaint issues classified as staff training/skills/qualifications when comparing the 2014-15 financial year with the 2015-16 financial year.