

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ17-000349

Topic: Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Program

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

Amendments have been made to the Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Program Guidelines Overview; When did the Department change the guidelines? When and how were they made public? What consultation did the Department have with the sector to inform these changes? What is the effect of the changes to the amended guidelines?

Answer:

The Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Program Guidelines were updated in April 2017. The updated guidelines were published on the Department of Social Services' website at <https://www.dss.gov.au/grants/grant-programmes/disability-carer-service-improvement-sector-support> on 24 April 2017.

The Department did not consult the sector in relation to the guideline changes as they were changes in style not content and would not affect the current funding agreement arrangements. The intent of the changes was to improve the clarity of presentation of information that was first published in 2014. Relevant funded peaks were advised of the funding guideline changes shortly after they were published online.