

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

KerrieOutcome Number: 8

Question No: 209

Topic: Specified Care and Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide an update on the progress of the working group that has been considering Specified Care and Services. I understand that many of the participants are calling for a cost of care study - will you commission one. If not, why not?

Answer:

Under changes to the *Aged Care Act 1997*, the distinction between low level and high level permanent residential aged care will be removed from 1 July 2014. A step in removing the distinction between low level and high level permanent residential aged care has been a review of the Schedule of Specified Care and Services for Residential Care Services (Schedule 1, *Quality of Care Principles 1997*).

A Reference Group under the National Aged Care Alliance has been established to consider options for amendments to the Schedule. It is expected that the Reference Group will provide advice to Government focussing on strengthening the clarity and clinical appropriateness of Items in the Schedule. Any amendments to the Schedule will be made in time to be implemented from 1 July 2014.

The relationship between the Aged Care Funding Instrument and the Schedule will continue, and as a result, it is not anticipated that a cost of care study will be required.