

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

Outcome Number: 8

Question No: 419

Topic: Reduction in red tape

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Polley asked:

What process has been / is being implemented to simplify the pricing system (as per Senator Fifield's media release on 20/11/13)? Will a new committee or body be established to undertake this review? Will this be additional to the Aged Care Financing Authority's role in providing "independent advice to Government on financing and funding issues in the aged care sector, examining issues of concern and advising Government as appropriate" (The Aged Care Financing Authority's Inaugural Report on the funding and financing of the Aged Care Sector, 30 June, 2013, page 8)? If so, how will this "remove" red tape?

Answer:

The Government announced a number of changes to simplify the price-setting process for residential aged care accommodation proposed by the previous government including removing the requirement for providers to follow a prescribed price-setting process, and increasing the threshold for accommodation payments above which providers will need to apply to the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner for approval.

Providers will still be required to publish all accommodation prices and information about their facility on the My Aged Care website, their own website, and in documentation given to prospective residents.

As per the Government's election commitment a committee will be set up to examine, amongst other things, other opportunities to reduce red tape in aged care. This is separate to the role of the Aged Care Financing Authority which will report to the Government from 1 July 2014 on the impact of the overall reforms to accommodation payments.