

Finance & Public Administration Committee
Inquiry into Residential and Community Aged Care
Launceston Hearing 27 March 2009
Questions on Notice to the
Department of Health and Human Services

Question 1

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Senator CAROL BROWN—Do you know how many of our aged-care providers receive viability supplements from the Commonwealth?

Ms Carty—No.

CHAIR—Could you take that on notice and provide that to us?

Mr Davidson—Yes.

This is not information that the Tasmanian Government/Department of Health and Human Services holds.

The Assistant State Manager Department of Health and Ageing has advised that the information will be provided to the Inquiry when Department of Health and Ageing Officers appear before the Committee again on 21 April 2009.

Question 2

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Senator SIEWERT—I was talking yesterday to somebody in Western Australia who said they had had a very steep increase in the number of people that are applying for fee waivers under HACC. Are you finding the same thing?

Ms Carty—I would have to take that on notice. I do not know if I should say this, but we have relatively affordable fees in Tasmania, capped at \$10.

Senator SIEWERT—We have in WA too, but one of the providers I was talking to was saying that they have had a huge increase in the number of people asking for waivers.

Ms Carty—If you would like, I will take that on notice and try to find out some information for you. It certainly is not something that my HACC providers through our convenors meetings have raised with me. That does not mean it is not happening, so I will investigate that for you.

Senator SIEWERT—Thank you.

The Department of Health and Human Services has limited information relating to this question.

A snapshot survey of providers indicates that there has been a small increase of approximately 0.3% from 2007 to 2008.

That is of the total client population receiving services there has been an increase from 1.5% to 1.8% of people in receipt of HACC Fee waivers.