

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

INQUIRY INTO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY AGED CARE

Canberra Hearing - 21 April 2009

Question: 04

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Exchange of Care Type

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Senator Siewert asked:

- 1) I understand that some provider have approached you are or are interested in converting some beds to community care packages? Is there a process for that?
- 2) In the past, how many beds have been converted?
- 3) Is there an increasing trend?
- 4) Have you any applications now before you to convert beds to community care packages?
- 5) I presume there is a set of criteria that you have on which to make your decisions?

Answer:

1) Exchange of care type refers to mechanisms through which one of the three types of aged care (residential, community, flexible) may be exchanged for another type, with the approval of the Secretary or her delegate.

An exchange of care type involves relinquishing places and making a new allocation of aged care places of a different type.

- 2) Between 1 January 2006 and 24 April 2009, a total of 267 residential aged care places were relinquished and exchanged for community care packages (which includes Community Aged Care Packages, Extended Aged Care at Home and Extended Aged Care at Home – Dementia).
- 3) There is no discernable trend in the number of exchange of care type approvals between 1 January 2006 and 24 April 2009.
- 4) Yes, but this is not uncommon.

5) Decisions about exchange of care type must be consistent with the objects of the *Aged Care Act 1997* (as set out in section 2-1) and follow an established legislative process. Accordingly, the Department of Health and Ageing decides the outcome of applications to exchange care type having taken into account the following key considerations:

- the provider must have an approval to deliver the type of care proposed
- the needs of care recipients and continuity of care
- whether the proposal best meets the needs of the aged care community in the relevant planning region
- whether the provider has a demonstrated capacity to operate an effective service of the care type
- the number of places made available in the current financial year, and the effect on any indicative releases of places in future Aged Care Approvals Rounds.