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Jo-Anne Mulcahy MP  
Estimates  
2.30pm 25/7/13  
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**Question on Notice  
No. 15  
Asked on 20 September 2012**

THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE asked the Minister for Housing and Public Works (DR FLEGG)-

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister:

- a) Outline, in detail, the services provided by the Home Assist Secure service in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012
- b) Outline, in detail what services will be provided by the Home Assist Secure service for 2012-2013
- c) Outline how much has been allocated for lawn mowing services in 2012-2013, under the Home Assist Secure service

**ANSWER:**

- a) The Home Assist Secure service aims to remove some of the practical housing-related difficulties experienced by people 60 years and over and people with a disability who wish to remain living in their home. The service provides free information and referral about home maintenance, repairs, minor modifications and home security. Subsidised assistance is available for eligible clients. Subsidised work can include small jobs and maintenance work such as cleaning gutters or nailing down loose floor boards, lawn mowing, cutting back branches, minor modifications such as installing hand rails, electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, installing smoke alarms and work to improve household security. The program assisted 58,564 households in 2010-2011 and 61,060 households in 2011-2012.
- b) In 2012-13 the Home Assist Secure program will continue to provide the same range of services as offered in previous years. No changes have been made to the program specifications which guide service delivery. Not-for-profit service providers will continue to receive the same level of funding.
- c) The department does not provide a specific funding allocation for lawn mowing or any other type of service. Each service provider determines how to allocate program funds to deliver Home Assist Secure services within the program guidelines. However, under the terms of the service agreement, organisations are limited to providing a subsidy of \$10 per lawn mowing service and most services are allowed to allocate up to 10% of their total funding towards the provision of subsidies for lawn mowing. Some services in areas which experience extreme climatic conditions may negotiate with the department for an increase to the percentage. As with all subsidies provided through the Home Assist Secure program, service providers are expected to ensure that allocations of lawn mowing subsidies are based on an eligible person's safety, health and security needs. There is provision in the program specifications for service providers to take steps to ensure that repeat lawn mowing services do not occur. While the program specifications do not prevent Home Assist Secure service providers from providing repeat lawn mowing services, this provision allows service providers to target their available resources towards eligible persons' most pressing safety and security needs. Lawn mowing provisions within the program specifications remain the same as offered in 2011-12.