

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014**

**Ref No: SQ14-000279**

**OUTCOME:** 9 - Private Health

**Topic:** Private Health Insurance

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** McLucas Jan

**Question:**

- a) When did the PHIAC provide submissions to the Minister on the latest annual increase to private health insurance premiums?
- b) Does the department know if the Minister's office questioned any of the proposed increases?
- c) What is the justification behind approvals for such a variable increase across premiums?

**Answer:**

- a) The Private Health Insurance Administration Council provided the Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, with summaries of all private health insurer premium submissions on 6 December 2013.
- b) The Department of Health is not in a position to comment on what the Minister queried during his consideration of the increases.
- c) The Department is not in a position to comment on the basis for decisions made as part of the approval process. The variation in increases was generally consistent with that seen in other years.