

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-078

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: VALUE TO THE TAXPAYER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Back asked:

- a) Provide a breakdown of the total amount of money repaid from practitioners through negotiated agreements and settlements.
- b) Consider on the facts whether it offers value for money to the taxpayer?

Answer:

- a) For the current financial year period from 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011, the Determining Authority has ratified 26 negotiated Agreements. Of these Agreements, 24 have included repayment orders totalling \$1,526,824.88. A breakdown of the total amount of repayment orders relating to these negotiated Agreements is provided in the below table.

A	\$63,962.00	E	\$72,298.00	I	\$4,329.09	M	\$10,425.00	Q	\$6,361.73	U	\$72,486.00
B	\$5,621.00	F	\$140,253.00	J	\$65,082.00	N	\$33,692.00	R	\$40,392.00	V	\$78,245.50
C	\$132,915.00	G	\$82,434.00	K	\$16,017.00	O	\$10,000.00	S	\$8,844.00	W	\$256,601.00
D	\$73,247.56	H	\$26,000.00	L	\$153,658.00	P	\$16,716.00	T	\$55,776.00	X	\$101,469.00

- b) The primary purpose of the Professional Services Review (PSR) Scheme is to protect the integrity of the Medicare Program and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) through administering a legislative framework within which services provided by a health practitioner may be peer reviewed. The PSR Scheme is part of a strong regulatory regime to ensure that appropriate and cost-effective clinical services are delivered. Seeking the repayment of monies paid as a result of inappropriate practice is only one small aspect of PSR's financial and regulatory impact.

Other financial impacts generated by PSR through its activities include:

- suspending and disqualifying a practitioner's access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule and PBS for up to three years;
- changing the future claiming behaviour of those practitioners that are reviewed; and
- deterring broader inappropriate practice across the profession.