

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Professional Services Review Committee

Question reference number: HS 157

Senator: Cameron

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Question:

The Professional Services Review (PSR) Agency's 2014-15 annual report found a 40% increase in investigations into medical practitioners rorting the Medicare Benefits Schedule. How many practitioners were referred by DHS to the PSR in each of the past 4 years? How many were sent reminder letters that they were approaching the 80/20 limit?

Answer:

a) The following referrals were made to the PSR:

- 30 referrals made in the 2011-12 financial year.
- 45 referrals made in the 2012-13 financial year.
- 45 referrals made in the 2013-14 financial year.
- 61 referrals made in the 2014-15 financial year.

b) In the four years to 30 June 2015 there were a total of 318 reminder letters sent:

- 103 sent in the 2011-12 financial year.
- 110 sent in the 2012-13 financial year.
- 80 sent in the 2013-14 financial year.
- 25 sent in the 2014-15 financial year.