

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000392

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Bulk-Billing

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 27, 19 October 2016

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Senator POLLEY: which is an issue, considering that our economic picture is much lower than some other states. So can you share with us, then, the percentage of patients who are bulk-billed by their GP, please.

Mr Bowles: Again, I think, Senator, it is about the services that we mainly longitudinally track. We can give a mixed picture of some of the patient-related issues. But, of the 385 million transactions that go through MBS, 85.1 per cent of those transactions—or those services, effectively—are bulk-billed.

Senator POLLEY: Yes.

Mr Bowles: I think it might be a little bit of a complex picture to go to patients, but Mr Stuart did say that the bulk of patients and the bulk of however he described that before are bulk-billed.

Senator POLLEY: Yes. So would you be able to then take it on notice to provide that information.

Mr Bowles: Yes, we can take it on notice and see what we can provide.

**Answer:**

The 2015-16 bulk billing rate for GP non-referred attendances is 85.1% and refers to the 145 million services provided to 20.9 million patients. To capture the bulk billing patterns of patients, a bulk billing rate for each patient was calculated based on non-referred attendances claimed during the financial year.

89.2% of patients had at least one bulk billed GP visit during the year. 80.7% of patients had 50% or more of their GP visits bulk billed during the year. 64.7% of patients had all their GP visits bulk billed during the year.