

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Small Business Superannuation Clearing House

Question reference number: HS 43

Senator: Ryan

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 April 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a. How many businesses have registered to use the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House?
- b. How many businesses do you expect to use the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House?
- c. To date, what is the operating cost of the Small Business Clearing House, per registered user of the Clearing House?
- d. Is Medicare Australia still on track to deliver the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House program on budget?
- e. Why weren't targets set for the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House program, as indicated in the DHS Incoming Government Brief (p. 143)?
- f. What is the total value of the payments made by the Clearing House on behalf of small businesses?
- g. How many employees are receiving the Clearing House service?
- h. What is the average cost per transaction?

Answer:

- a. 3,560 (as at 18 March 2011).
- b. It is expected that take up of the Clearing House service will continue to grow as more small businesses become aware of its availability.
- c. Medicare Australia was provided funding of \$16.1million over three years from 2009-10 in the 2008-09 Budget to develop and operate the Clearing House. Medicare Australia is not funded on the basis of cost per registered user and it would not be appropriate to derive such a value at a specific point in time because it continually decreases as additional employers use the service.
- d. Yes.

- e. As use of the Clearing House service is optional for small businesses, the likely level of take up of the service could not have been known in advance.
- f. \$27.8 million (as at 18 March 2011).
- g. 21,796 (as at 18 March 2011).
- h. Small businesses do not pay for any transactions conducted with the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House. It would not be appropriate to derive such a cost per transaction value at a specific point in time because the cost per transaction will reduce with each transaction processed.