

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-032

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REVIEW (PSR) AGENCY

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Senator Bernardi asked:

For the service providers that are referred to PSR, what are they referred there for and what penalties were applied to them (for the last three years)?

Answer:

The Department of Human Services analyses Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) claiming statistics to identify any potential concerns that may exist with a practitioner's use of MBS or the PBS through their Practitioner Review Program. When the Department of Human Services considers that these concerns may relate to inappropriate practice and forms the view that assessment of these concerns requires a review of a practitioners clinical records, they will refer the matter to the Director of PSR.

A summary of the types of concerns referred to PSR has been provided in the response to Question on Notice E12-035.

For the 171 matters completed between 1 July 2008 and 31 January 2012, which resulted in a finding or acknowledgement of inappropriate practice, the following sanctions were applied:

- 156 practitioners were ordered to repay Medicare and/or PBS benefits totalling \$9.9 million;
- 147 practitioners were reprimanded;
- 40 practitioners were counselled; and
- 104 practitioners were suspended from access to Medicare (fully or partially) and/or the PBS (currently only full suspensions can be applied).