

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-325

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: GP MENTAL HEALTH CARE PLANS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to changes to Medicare Rebates for GP mental health care plans announced in the 2011/12 Federal Budget:

- a) Has the Department undertaken any modelling regarding the impact of these changes on the number of GP mental health care plans funded through MBS arrangements?
- b) If so, what was the projected impact of these changes on the number of GP mental health care plans funded through MBS arrangements post 1 November 2011?

Answer:

a) and b)

GPs have access to a Medicare Benefits Scheme schedule fee of up to \$129.00 (if they have completed mental health skills training) and a schedule fee of up to \$101.55 (if they have not completed mental health skills training) per consultation for completing a mental health treatment plan, so the Department of Health and Ageing wouldn't expect any change to service volumes.

Modelling was based on the introduction of the time - tiered rebates for GP Mental Health Treatment Plans not from any change in service volumes.