

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000139

**OUTCOME:** 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

**Topic:** Medicare co-payment

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

1. Can the department provide some details on what kind of consultation is being undertaken with doctors in relation to savings measures for Medicare?

a. Are other groups being involved in this consultation, such as nurses or allied health professionals?

b. What consultation was undertaken before the announcement of the original proposed co-payment and then the proposed Medicare rebate cut?

**Answer:**

The Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, has been travelling the country consulting with GPs, health workers, medical and consumer groups and a range of medical associations since January 2015.

The Minister has said she will continue consulting on short, medium and long-term options to keep on supporting high quality care and treatment as efficiently as possible.

The Department of Health consulted with peak bodies, professional colleges, consumer groups, software vendors and other health sector representative groups regarding the co-payment measure since its announcement in the 2014-15 Budget.

Information on the Department's consultation was provided to the Senate Select Committee on Health: Question on Notice SQ15-000009, from 5 February 2015; and SQ14-001102 from 8 October 2014.