

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000064

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** 6th CPA

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

**Senator:** Gallagher, Katy

**Question:**

- a) Could the department provide the committee with the latest statistics on prescriptions and pharmacies offering the voluntary \$1 discount for prescriptions?
- b) Could the figures for prescriptions be broken down by total prescriptions, and prescriptions eligible for the discount?

**Answer:**

- a) Information provided by the Department of Human Services indicates that in January and February 2016, 29 per cent of all prescriptions that were eligible for a discount were discounted. Eligible prescriptions are those for concessional patients, and general patients where the cost of the medicine is at or above the patient copayment.

Around 79 per cent of approved pharmacies discounted prescriptions, at least for some customers.

This data is unlikely to be complete, as it was extracted a short time after the period ended.

- b) Of the 24,162,160 eligible PBS scripts dispensed nationally in January and February 2016, some 17,041,304 scripts had no discounts applied, while 7,120,856 had a discount applied.