

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000065

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: MBS Review

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

The head of the MBS Review Professor Robinson is reported to have told an AMA-hosted forum on the MBS Review that the taskforce co-ordinating the review had been given no say over a 28 December announcement by Health Minister Sussan Ley that an initial batch of 23 items had been recommended for removal from the MBS. Whose decision was it to make that announcement public?

Answer:

The Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce itself publicly released its first group list of obsolete items for consultation on 18 December 2015.

The Taskforce has adopted an approach that includes public consultation prior to it providing recommendations to the Minister.

The consultation period was open for approximately eight weeks, and closed on 8 February 2016. The information was published on the Department's website. Medical colleges, medical societies, craft groups, and other stakeholders with an interest in the review were also advised at the time.

The Minister's media release of 28 December 2015 referred to this process.