

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000324

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Funding for MSAC and MBS Review Taskforce

Type of Question: Hansard Page 44, 10 February 2016

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: With an annual budget of—roughly? Mr Bowles: Some \$34 million over two years. Ms Jolly: Yes, but that includes the work of the taskforce and also the work of MSAC. Mr Bowles: That is right, yes; the Medical Services Advisory Committee as well. Senator GALLAGHER: So, there is \$34 million allocated over two years but expended to date has been \$2 million across that? Ms Jolly: Yes. Mr Bowles: That is on the MBS review. It is not on the MSAC side of it. I think we would have to take the MSAC side of it on notice. Mr Stuart: We have a broader funding envelope. Senator GALLAGHER: So, the \$34 million includes both? Mr Bowles: Yes. Senator GALLAGHER: But you have given me the funding just for the taskforce? Mr Bowles: That is right. Wednesday, 10 February 2016 Senate Page 45 Senator GALLAGHER: Is the MSAC side of it the more expensive side? Ms Jolly: Some of the funding will go towards reviews. Because the MBS taskforce is starting its process, some of those review costs will kick in shortly.

Answer:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Department received a single appropriation of \$34.3 million over two years for two components to support activities related to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). These activities are the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and the MBS Review Taskforce. Funding has not been formally split between the two activities.

At the end of 2015/16:

- MSAC had expensed \$3 176 000; and
- MBS Reviews had expensed \$4 279 000.