



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**Estimates hearing 10 February 2016**

I am writing further to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Senate Estimates hearing of 10 February 2016 to clarify some matters given in evidence. I refer to pages 31-32 of the Hansard, regarding a question asked by Senator Gallagher relating to the MYEFO – Pathology Bulk Billing Incentive and specifically the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) rebate for a pap smear test.

I wish to advise that the following response as provided by me, Maria Jolly was incorrect:

**Answer:** *Currently the Medicare rebate for a cytology item for a pap smear is the MBS fee, which is \$19.45. There is also a patient episode initiation amount which goes to the collection of the specimen, and that is \$8.20.*

I would like to correct the record to provide additional clarifying information, with the following:

**Correct Answer:** *Currently the Medicare rebate for a pap smear conducted out of hospital is \$16.55. This is 85 per cent of the Medicare fee, which is \$19.45. There is also a patient episode initiation of \$7.00. In addition, a bulk billing incentive of \$3.20 is payable to the provider if they bulk bill the patient. This makes a total of \$26.75 for a bulk billed out of hospital pap smear.*

My apologies to the committee and the secretariat.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maria Jolly'.

Maria Jolly  
First Assistant Secretary  
Medical Benefits Division  
22 February 2016