

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000018

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Health Insurance Providers

Type of Question: Hansard, Page 34, 1 March 2017

Senator: Dastyari, Sam

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: No. Can I get you to take on notice a separate question. The question—and it seems like you do not know the answer, which is completely fine—is whether or not that information is collected and aggregated. If it is already aggregated, it might be available somewhere. Are you able to take on notice—

Mr Bowles: We can take that on notice.

Senator DASTYARI: Can you take on notice how you would get that information? It may already be aggregated. My understanding is that, for me to apply, I would have to provide you and show you—

Mr Bowles: Through the tax system.

Senator DASTYARI: Through the tax system, but I have to demonstrate that I am in private health insurance, because it is a rebate.

Mr Bowles: In the broad, you will get something from your private insurance that says you are paying whatever. If you meet the criteria around salary and all that sort of stuff, you get your rebate through the tax system. That is effectively how it works. So it would be difficult for us, I think, to get the answer you want about each of those things—

Senator DASTYARI: They probably do not collect it.

Mr Bowles: Yes. We will take it on notice.

Answer:

Information about how much Private Health Insurance rebate is provided to individual insurers is calculated and paid by the Department of Human Services.