

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000019

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Private Health Insurers

Type of Question: Hansard Page 35, 1 March 2017

Senator: Dastyari, Sam

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: You might want to take this on notice, or you might already have the number. How many approved entities are there?

Ms Duffy: How many private health insurers are operational right now?

Senator DASTYARI: Yes.

Ms Duffy: Thirty-six.

Senator DASTYARI: You may need to take this on notice, which would be completely understandable. Can you put that in perspective? How has it been in the last three years? Are there more, or are there fewer? Is there more competition, less competition?

Ms Duffy: It is pretty stable. In the last 12 months have been two additional insurers added to the list of insurers. If you want past years, I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The number of operational private health insurers in the past three years is shown in the table below:

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of operational insurers (at 1 March)	34	34	33	36

Source: Australian Prudential Regulation Authority - *Operations of Private Health Insurers Annual Report* for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 and *Register of Private Health Insurers*.