

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000031

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Private Health Insurance

Type of Question: Hansard, Page 46, 1 March 2017

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Ms Duffy: The ACCC process is an annual process where they look at the sector and pick up in the 12 months leading up to the release of a report things that are reported to them as part of their review. This year they focused on the type of information health insurers provided to consumers.

Senator DI NATALE: The type of information—so does that include information about exclusions?

Ms Duffy: Yes.

Senator DI NATALE: Do we have any recommendations?

Ms Duffy: I am unsure if the report has been released yet.

Senator DI NATALE: Can you take that on notice and provide that to us if possible? Are there any particular areas of concern that you are aware of? For example, I know bariatric surgery is an issue that has been raised in relation to exclusions.

Answer:

The next Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) annual report on competition and consumer issues within the private health insurance industry is expected to be released in July 2017.

The latest report, released in October 2016 was titled ‘Communicating changes to private health insurance benefits - A report to the Australian Senate on anti-competitive and other practices by health insurers and providers in relation to private health insurance’.

The report can be found at: <https://www.accc.gov.au/publications/private-health-insurance-reports/private-health-insurance-report-2014-15>