

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000206

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: After Hours Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

- a) Can the department provide data on what proportion of patients who use an after hours service attend their usual GP the following day?
- b) What proportion have their problem dealt with by the after-hours doctor alone and seek no further care?

Answer:

- a) 10.8 per cent of patients that claimed an item 597 also claimed a non-referred attendance (Group A1/A2 item) on the following day (based on 2015-16 data). It is not possible to determine whether the following day attendance relates to the same patient condition as the urgent after-hours attendance, or whether the patient visited their usual GP or a different GP on the following day.
- b) Medicare data does not record patient medical history, therefore it is not possible to determine what proportion of patients receive follow-up care for their treated condition. In addition, follow-up care may be sought from a range of sources, including Health Direct, Public or Private Emergency Departments, GP visits and other diagnostic services such as pathology and diagnostic imaging.