

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000229

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** MBS Review Taskforce

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Griff, Stirling

**Question:**

- a) Does the department consider this a reasonable rate of progress?
- b) Has any advice been provided to the Taskforce and its committees about progression milestones and/or when the department would like the review of the 5700 items to be completed?
  - i. If no timeframes have been provided, why not?
- c) Are there plans to fold the Review into the regular review processes run by the Department of Health?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes. The Department is working constructively with the independent MBS Review Taskforce to assist them in their detailed evidence review of MBS items. As of 6 March 2017, 57 per cent of the MBS items have been reviewed or are in the process of being reviewed.
- b) The MBS Review Taskforce is an independent clinical taskforce.
- c) The Taskforce in its Terms of Reference has been asked to monitor the outcome of MBS Reviews to inform an ongoing cycle of Reviews. It states: 'Monitor the outcome of MBS reviews and trends in MBS growth to inform an ongoing cycle of Reviews, including advising on a system of ongoing analysis of MBS data, integration of other relevant available data, policy development and implementation'.