

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000230

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: MBS Review Taskforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

Can you please clarify the decision making chain:

- a) Is it correct that the working group recommendations are assessed by the 34 clinical committees?
- b) What happens then – are these recommendations then assessed by the taskforce?
- c) How many clinical committee recommendations have been overturned at the taskforce level?
- d) In cases where recommendations are overturned, does the taskforce provide feedback to the committees on its reasoning?

Answer:

a) Working Groups are established under individual Clinical Committees. Working Group recommendations are endorsed by their respective Clinical Committees.

Note: As at 1 March 2017, 18 Clinical Committees and 48 Working Groups have been established by the MBS Review Taskforce to assist it with its work.

b) Each Clinical Committee develops a report and draft recommendations, which is considered and may be endorsed by the Taskforce to go to public consultation. Following consultation and further consideration by Clinical Committees, recommendations are finalised by the Taskforce and submitted to Government for its consideration.

c) The finalising of Taskforce recommendations to Government is an iterative process which is informed by Clinical Committees and public consultation. The number of changes are not counted.

d) Clinical Committees are advised on the deliberations of the Taskforce.