

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000377

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** Alcohol and other Drugs

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

How is the Department working with addiction medicine specialists to increase the availability and accessibility of drug and alcohol treatment programs?

**Answer:**

As part of the Australian Government's contribution to the National Ice Action Strategy, 15 new items were listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) for services provided by addiction medicine specialists on 1 November 2016.

The new items will support the delivery of quality private sector services for addiction medicine and assist to meet the needs of patients who are unwilling or unable to attend public clinics.