

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: General Practitioners Rural Incentive Program

Question reference number: HS 25

Senator: Edwards

Type of question: Hansard page 120

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator EDWARDS: Just before I move on, could you give me an idea, on notice, of how much of the money has been recovered to date, how much is likely to be outstanding and for how long.

Ms Golightly: Yes, we can do that.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2012, the department has recovered \$346,312 in General Practice Rural Incentive Program payments from 88 providers.

As at 31 May 2012, \$797,024 is still outstanding from 205 providers.

Providers are offered two debt recovery options, offsetting of payments made against payments due or debt recovery.

It is expected that the bulk of overpayments will be repaid by December 2012.

However, arrangements may be made with some providers that extend beyond that date.