

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2013-14, 5/6 & 7 June 2013

Question: E13-123

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical Services

Topic: Child Dental Benefits Schedule

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What do you expect the average claim to be over two years under the Scheme and what do you expect to be the average out of pocket costs per patient over two years?

Answer:

Eligibility for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is determined annually, meaning that expected claims for an individual cannot be averaged over a two year period.

It is up to private providers of dental services to determine whether they will bulk bill or set their own fees. As such, the Department of Health and Ageing cannot estimate average out of pocket costs. However, it is expected that the majority of children will not require services reaching the \$1,000 benefit cap over two years.