

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E13-136

OUTCOME: 4 - Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Aged Care Funding Instrument Fraud

Type of Question: Hansard Page 79, 5 June 2013

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What is the potential value of those claims if fraud were to be proved? Are we talking millions, hundreds of thousands or tens of thousands?

Answer:

It is not possible to estimate the potential value of instances of claiming currently being investigated as potential offences of obtaining benefits by deception or related offences. These investigations are still underway and the extent of any possible offences is still to be determined.

The instances under investigation in relation to possible criminal offences form only a small part of total incorrect claiming and go to the nature of alleged conduct, not the extent or duration of incorrect claiming. Inaccurate claiming practices by approved providers remain a concern for the Department of Health and Ageing with nearly one in five claims reviewed by the Department found to be overclaiming and about two in three services having review visits having funding reduced.