

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Evidence of misuse of Practice Incentives Programme payments

Question reference number: HS 188

Senator: McLucas

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The question is about compliance with PIP and should be responded to by the Department of Human Services, who manage audit and compliance aspects of the PIP. What evidence can the Department provide on whether there has been any misuse of the funding provided to general practices through the Practice Incentives Programme?

Answer:

The department does not have evidence that there has been misuse of funding under the Practice Incentives Programme (PIP).

In order to receive payments under the PIP, general practices registered for this programme are required to comply with a range of eligibility criteria and, in relation to some individual incentives, the provision of medical services. Payment of incentives is based upon compliance with this eligibility criteria, not subsequent use of the funds paid.

The department carries out compliance audits to ensure practices meet the eligibility criteria to receive the incentive payments. The department does not carry out compliance activities in relation to how practices use incentive funds paid.

These compliance activities are in line with the service agreement between the Department of Health and the department.