

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000424

**OUTCOME:** 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

**Topic:** Medicare Item Number Changes

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

**Senator:** Madigan, John

**Question:**

Are there going to be changes to the Medicare item number 10991 for Health Care and Pension Card holders? If so, what will the changes be?

**Answer:**

The current bulk billing Medicare Benefits Schedule incentive item 10991 will continue to apply to GP services which are not affected by the patient contribution Budget measure such as the health assessment, chronic disease management and a range of more specialised GP services. These services will continue to attract the bulk billing incentive item 10991 when they are bulk billed for a concessional patient or child under 16 years in an eligible location.

Low gap incentive items will replace the current bulk billing incentive items only for those services affected by the Budget measure. Low gap incentive payments will be paid to doctors who accept the Medicare rebate and only charge a concessional patient or child under 16 years the \$7 patient contribution, or to the doctor who accepts just the Medicare rebate once the concessional patient or child under 16 years has paid the patient contribution 10 times in a calendar year.