

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-000437

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

**Topic:** Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Co-payments - Modelling

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 46 2 June 2014

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

- a) Have you done any modelling on how many people would have hit that safety net figure (\$1,597.80)?
- b) Do you know how many people would have hit that figure based on current usage?
- c) Could you also work out how many people would have hit the safety net for the three years leading up to and including 2017-18?
- d) What proportion of the current population will hit the \$2,287.90 safety net by 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Analysis of the proposed increases to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) safety net thresholds was undertaken at the population rather than patient level, and involved estimating the shift between the number of 'safety net' and 'ordinary' PBS prescriptions dispensed following the increase to the PBS safety net threshold.