

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-000480

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

**Topic:** GP Visits

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

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

What evidence has been considered that is available to indicate that Australians are over utilising GP visits?

**Answer:**

It is difficult to quantify the ideal or appropriate number of GP visits, or to assess the effectiveness of GP consultations.

However, it may be relevant to consider that in 2012-13, 263 million Medicare services were bulk billed. Between 2002-03 and 2012-13, the number of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) funded GP services per capita (including after-hours services, chronic disease management items and all other non-referred attendances) increased by 13 per cent. Over this same period, MBS expenditure per person for these services increased by nearly 83 per cent to \$256.27 per person.