

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-000487

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Acute Care

**Topic:** Modelling Hospital Demand

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

**Senator:** Xenophon, Nick

**Question:**

Has any modelling been undertaken to ascertain how hospitals will cope with accelerated demand for hospital beds, for example, if patients avoid the GP only to present at hospital with a severe acute illness?

**Answer:**

The Australian Government has announced that, concomitant with the introduction of patient contributions for bulk-billed general practice consultations, states and territories will be able to introduce a patient contribution for GP-equivalent visits to emergency departments. This will assist in ensuring that there are no perverse incentives for patients to present at emergency departments for GP-type treatment.