

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-000559

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

**Topic:** GP Co-payment

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

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Will people accessing Aboriginal Medical Services be required to pay the Medicare co-payment?

Will people accessing medical care from residential homes be required to pay the Medicare co-payment?

**Answer:**

The Budget measure will only apply to standard GP consultations, including after hours services, and out of hospital pathology and diagnostic imaging services. When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and residents of aged care facilities access these kinds of services, they may be asked to pay the patient contribution.

Many of the Medicare items that are regularly used to provide targeted services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, such as the Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Health Assessment, will not be affected by the Budget measure. These Medicare items, which are more comprehensive and attract commensurately higher fees than standard GP general attendance items, will continue to receive the full Medicare rebate and will be eligible for the current bulk billing incentives for Commonwealth Concession Card holders and children aged under 16 years.

Not all services provided to people in a residential aged care facility will attract the \$7.00 patient contribution. For example, the Comprehensive Medical Assessment health assessment service, which can be provided to residents once every 12 months, won't be affected by the Budget measure.