

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No: SQ14-000611**

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

**Topic:** Optometry

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

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

Are any patient groups exempted from the optometry rebate and fee changes? If so who is accepted? Will any groups continue to be bulk billed for their eye tests? What is the likely cost going to be for a standard eye test?

**Answer:**

The fee (and consequently rebate) reduction is for all optometry items under the Medical Benefits Schedule. Optometrists are expected to continue to bulk bill most of their patients. It is anticipated that most patients will continue to be bulk billed and have no out of pocket costs for comprehensive eye examinations.