

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No: SQ14-000618**

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

**Topic:** Medicare Benefits Schedule Indexation

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

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

What is the likely impact to specialist fees of the MBS indexation freeze?

**Answer:**

The lack of indexation affects the level of Medicare rebate, but has no direct effect on the fee charged by the specialist.

Currently, most specialists charge above the schedule fee for most of their services. It would be very difficult to predict the impact on specialist fees given that a specialist's fee is a discretionary matter for each individual specialist.