

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000640

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Child Dental Benefits Scheme

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Has there been any advertising or promotion of the Child Dental Benefits Scheme?

Answer:

Yes.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) dispatched an initial mail-out to families and children eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) from 16 January 2014. As at 31 May 2014, approximately 2.9 million children had been notified of their eligibility for the CDBS. For the benefit of potentially eligible families, DHS has a screensaver on Self-Service Terminals and a front of house video in Service Centres.

Information on the CDBS was sent to dental providers on 26 November 2013. The letters included a comprehensive guide on the CDBS. The guide and consent forms are also available on the Department of Health's website. Additional education materials are available on the DHS website. The Australian Dental Association has also provided information on the CDBS to its members.

Information (including eligibility criteria, what services are covered, and where to find more information) has been broadcast by 44 community radio stations in three community languages (Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic) and articles have been published in Ethnic Press in 37 language publications in three community languages (Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic).