

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000804

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: GP Co-payment and Mental Illness

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Are exemptions to the GP co-payment being considered for people with mental health issues?

Answer:

It is not possible to identify in Medicare data whether a person has a mental health issue.

However, there are some specific items associated with mental health assessment, management and treatment, such as visits to a psychiatrist or a psychologist and GP mental health items, for example for a GP consultation to prepare or review a mental health care plan. These Medicare Benefits Schedule items are not included in the patient contribution measure.