

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000985

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Patient Co-payment

Type of Question: Hansard Page 65, 2 June 2014

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

- a) What proportion of patients are likely to meet the 10 visit cap in a year?
- b) What proportion of the total number of concession card holders will meet the cap?
- c) Also how many general patients will hit the 10 visits per year?

Answer:

- a) According to Medicare data, 20.6 million patients had at least one Medicare service in the 2012-13 financial year. Of these 5.6 million (27 per cent) had more than 10 in-scope services (that is, out-of-hospital services for which the patient contribution measure applies). Some of these services are not currently bulk billed.
- b) There were 7.8 million people who had a concession card at any time during the 2012-13 financial year who had at least one Medicare service in that year. Of these people, 3.1 million (40 per cent) had more than 10 in-scope services (that is, out-of-hospital services for which the patient contribution measure applies). Some of these services are not currently bulk billed.
- c) 12.8 million general patients (people who did not have a concession card at any time during 2012-13) had at least one Medicare service in the 2012-13 financial year. Of these people, 2.5 million (19 per cent) had more than 10 in-scope services (that is, out-of-hospital services for which the patient contribution measure applies). Some of these services are not currently bulk billed.