

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ14-001035

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

**Topic:** GP Visits

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 72, 02 June 2014

**Senator:** O'Neill, Deborah

**Question:**

Dr Bartlett: They will have a range of choices available to them, as they do now.

Senator O'NEILL: Turned away being one option, I suppose.

Dr Bartlett: As it is now, Senator.

Senator O'NEILL: Or absorb the cost. That is another option.

Prof. Halton: I think we need to be a little cautious here. We cannot make any comment in an area where you are going to how many young people may or may not be eligible for any kind of concession card based on what will happen to their status—that is a question for another portfolio. I am happy to take on notice an inquiry into the other portfolio that might enable us to answer the question, but the suggestion which is implicit in what you are asking is that all of those young people would be ineligible to be concessional patients. We do not know that; we do not have that information. I am happy to take that on notice and we will give you an answer. (2/06/2014 p 72)

**Answer:**

Detailed questions about eligibility for concession cards should be directed to the Department of Social Services.

For Medicare purposes, if a person is issued with a Commonwealth issued concession card at any time during a year they are treated as a concessional patient for the remainder of the calendar year. This means that they would remain eligible for the 10 service patient contribution threshold and the lower threshold of the Medicare Safety Net. The patient's doctor would also be eligible for low gap or bulk billing incentives (where applicable) for any services provided after the Concession card was issued.