

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: ANAO Report 26 2013-14 – Medicare Compliance Audits

Question reference number: HS 50

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

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Question:

I refer to ANAO Report 26 2013-14 Medicare Compliance Audits.

- a) Has DHS further developed its risk management framework?
- b) Is DHS prioritising its Medicare compliance activity to target the significant compliance risks to the Medicare program?
- c) How many Medicare audit, review and compliance cases were completed in 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date?
- d) Please provide an update on the Department's implementation of the recommendations.

Answer:

- a) Yes. Since the ANAO report, the department has reviewed and re-assessed all compliance risk areas under the new framework. The framework in place ensures each focus area's risk rating and work priority levels are assessed and reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- b) Yes. DHS assesses and prioritises compliance risk areas on a quarterly basis. The ongoing review of risk areas sets the compliance activity work plan. The results and impacts of compliance activities are being considered when risk areas are re-assessed.
- c) During 2013-14, the department completed 3,979 Medicare audit, review and compliance cases.

As at 31 May 2015, the department has completed 3,270 Medicare audit, review and compliance cases.

- d) Recommendation 1 has been implemented. Please see a) and b) above.

Recommendation 2 has been partially implemented.

As noted in the department's response to the JCPAA (March 2015), the department has drafted an Outcomes Reporting framework which includes the Health Compliance Evaluation Strategy, aimed at assessing the performance and outcomes of the compliance program (including assessment of behavioural change). The framework is expected to be finalised by the end of August 2015.