

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000388

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Private Health Insurance

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Cardiac devices such as Implantable Cardiac Pacemakers and Defibrillators are one of insurers highest cost items. Regulated prices stipulate far higher prices than those paid in the public health system.

Is the Department aware of any evidence that Australian private health insurers are stipulated to pay prices for items listed on the Private Health Insurance - Prostheses List up to 2.5 times higher than those seen in other parts of the Australian health system?

Answer:

The Department of Health has very recently been made aware of anecdotal evidence suggesting there may be differences between the benefits for Implantable Cardiac Pacemakers and Defibrillators on the Prostheses List and the prices paid for these devices in the public sector.

The Department has noted this information and is investigating the matter.