

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 1 - 2 June 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000606

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Medicare Benefits Schedule

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

How will the Government ensure that the projected losses from the MBS indexation freeze do not impact the delivery of frontline services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

Answer:

Aboriginal Medical Services receive multiple forms of funding from the Commonwealth. This includes direct funding through grants, and indirect funding through claiming Medicare Benefits for services on the Medical Benefits Schedule.

Overall the Government is investing \$3.3 billion over the next four financial years through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme, an increase of over \$550 million when compared with the previous four years. \$1.4 billion is being provided over three years to enable the continued delivery of primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around the nation.