

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000552

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Guarantee Fund

Type of Question: Hansard Page 66, 29 May 2017

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Senator DI NATALE: Can you explain to me how it safeguards the future of Medicare.

Senator Nash: I will take the detail of that on notice for you. Obviously I am not the minister responsible. But, by the very fact that we have a fund, it shows the certainty of the funding into the future, as I understand it.

Senator DI NATALE: How so?

Senator Nash: That will all be in the detail of the legislation.

Senator DI NATALE: The funding exists already. There is a bucket of money that goes into health. If we call it something, that does not guarantee it. So I am just asking: how does it guarantee funding for Medicare?

Senator Nash: I am happy to take those details on notice for you to get them absolutely right.

Answer:

On June 20 2017 the *Medicare Guarantee Bill 2017* and the *Medicare Guarantee (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2017* were passed by the Senate. The Medicare Guarantee Fund will be established to fund the Medicare Benefit Schedule and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme on the day after the *Medicare Guarantee Bill 2017* receives Royal Assent.