

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000554

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Medicare Freeze

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 72, 29 May 2017

**Senator:** Singh, Lisa

**Question:**

Senator SINGH: It follows on from what you are referring to in relation to the Medicare freeze. I would like if you could provide us with a time line, or an outline at least of the time line, of the MBS indexation.

Mr Bowles: We will take on notice to provide to time line but we have already given that to you verbally today and last estimates and the one before that. It starts with the 2013-14, eight months to 1 July 2014.

Senator SINGH: I want to see where it ends, you see, so a time line is useful. I understand it is available.

**Answer:**

<b>Medicare indexation timeline</b>
In the 2013-14 Budget the then Government announced indexation of all Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) fees would be paused for 8 months (paused from November 2013 to June 2014).
In the 2014-15 Budget the Government announced indexation of specialist and allied health schedule fees would be paused for 2 years (paused from 1 July 2014 to 1 July 2016).
In the 2014-15 MYEFO the Government announced indexation of schedule fees for all MBS fees would be paused until 1 July 2018 (this paused specialist and allied health services from 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2018, and GP services from 1 July 2015 to 1 July 2018).
In the 2016-17 Budget the Government announced indexation of schedule fees for all MBS fees would be paused until 1 July 2020.
In the 2017-18 Budget the Government announced indexation of schedule fees would commence from 1 July 2017 in a phased approach.