

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000556

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Benefits Schedule Review

Type of Question: Hansard Page 77, 29 May 2017

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: Okay. It might be best if we save the rest of our questions there for Treasury. I have not too much more on 4.1. We touched earlier on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) review. I think it came up in the context of the after-hours care. I notice that the budget includes \$44.2 million to continue that review until 2020. Can you give us an idea of how that money will be spent, such as how much is for consultants, how much is for the department?

Mr Bowles: We may not have the answer to that.

Ms Jolly: I think we are still mapping out that over the coming years. At the moment the work is done by a combination of departmental officials, who support the taskforce through a secretariat, and we have some companies on board also assisting.

Senator WATT: Like consultants?

Ms Jolly: Yes, consultants. At this stage I would not think that that would change, but those decisions are yet to be made into the forwards.

Senator WATT: Okay. Could you take on notice what the breakdown of those figures year-on-year is between consultants and department.

Mr Bowles: As much as we know at this point.

Senator WATT: Sure.

Mr Stuart: Probably the easiest thing to get an indication is for us to tell you that over the past year rather than going forward.

Senator WATT: Are the figures for the past year fairly similar?

Mr Bowles: They would be.

Ms Jolly: We can include those.

Answer:

Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ17-000776.