

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000557

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Benefits Schedule Review

Type of Question: Hansard Page 79, 29 May 2017

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Senator WATT: Okay. I understand that your portfolio budget submission does say that that \$44.2 million is split into \$21.6 million in administrative expenses and \$22.6 million in departmental expenses. I take it that the money is essentially being split half between departmental officers and half to external consultants and other external people. Is that right?

Ms Jolly: In regard to that split that you have outlined some of the departmental funds may also go to specific contracts for services, but we can provide some of that detail, but, yes, it is as you outlined.

Senator WATT: How much has been budgeted for the MBS review so far?

Mr Simpson: The initial budget allocation was \$34 million.

Senator WATT: That was in the 2015 budget?

Mr Simpson: Yes.

Senator WATT: Was that for a one-year amount?

Mr Stuart: That was over two years.

Senator WATT: So 2015-16 and 2016-17?

Ms Jolly: Yes. That also includes funding for Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).

Senator WATT: Has that money been spent? Is that the amount that did end up being spent?

Ms Jolly: We can provide you

Answer:

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