

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000559

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Medical Benefits Schedule Review

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 79, 29 May 2017

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Senator WATT: The \$5 million in savings that has been generated so far, what items does that \$5 million relate to?

Ms Jolly: We would need to take that on notice. There were quite a few. The first look was at what items were obsolete, so items that were not used or were used in very small numbers. That was the very first tranche of work. There has been quite a lot of work done since. We have just recently published on our website the forward workplan for the MBS review taskforce including a series of reports that are coming out over coming months. They go to some of the issues that have been talked about. So there will be a progressive rollout of reports which will have within them a range of recommendations.

**Answer:**

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Australian Government agreed to recommendations from the MBS Review Taskforce that a number of MBS items were obsolete. This measure was implemented on 1 July 2016 and was estimated to save \$5.1 million from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

Further details can be found on the Department's website at:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/4C328B614D3237CECA257FA80010EDD7/\\$File/10\\_FS\\_MBS\\_ObsoleteServices\\_1May\\_PRINT.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/4C328B614D3237CECA257FA80010EDD7/$File/10_FS_MBS_ObsoleteServices_1May_PRINT.pdf)