

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000776

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: MBS Review

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

How much has been spent on the MBS so far? Can you please provide a breakdown of these expenses - how much has gone to consultants? How much to the Department? How much to clinicians?

Answer:

The funding provided in the 2015-16 Budget '*Medicare Benefits Schedule - review and reform*' was for:

- the continuation of the work of Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC); and
- the MBS Review

The following funding was provided for these activities:

2015-16 Budget – Medicare Benefits Schedule – review and reform

	2015-16 (\$m)	2016-17 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Departmental	2.864	2.840	5.704
Administered	14.173	14.414	28.587
Total	17.037	17.254	34.291

Source: Portfolio Budget Statements 2015-16, page 28.

- \$34.291 million was allocated in departmental and administered funding combined in the 2015-16 Budget over a 2 year period.
- \$28.587 million was allocated in administered funding in the 2015-16 Budget over two years for the MBS Review and MSAC.
- As at 30 May 2017, around \$2 million has been spent on Committee meetings (for example on sitting fees and travel for members).
- As at 30 May 2017, around \$4 million has been spend on departmental expenditure to assist with the MBS Review Taskforce. The Review has been supported by a number of areas across the Department of Health. Departmental officers provide secretariat

and committee support. The Department also supports public consultation and stakeholder engagement processes as agreed to the MBS Taskforce.

- At various stages over the past 12 months the Department has entered into contracts with a number of organisations to assist with the Review's process. As 2016-17 financial year is not yet been completed, the Department is expecting that the expenditure will use the entire allocated budget. However, the Department notes that the MSAC process is demand driven.
- At the time of writing this response around \$13 million has been spent on external organisations and consumers.