

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000788

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Bulk Billing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

What is the percentage of patients who are bulk billed for specialist services in Australia?
Please provide the most current data.

Answer:

The Department of Health does not routinely compile statistics showing patient bulk billing patterns for specialist attendances.

The Department does routinely compile bulk billing statistics (based on services) for specialist attendances in Australia. The most current data is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: National Bulk Billing Rates: Specialist Attendances

	2016-17 YTD Jul-Mar
Australia	30.5

Source:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare+Statistics-1>

Quarterly Medicare Statistics, 1.4a Bulk Billing State YTD