

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000789

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 - broken down into each state and territory? 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 by state and territory. The most current data is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Bulk Billing Rates by State and Territory: Specialist Attendances

| | 2016-17 YTD Jul-Mar |
|-----------|------------------------|
| NSW | 35.2 |
| VIC | 29.9 |
| QLD | 25.9 |
| SA | 35.0 |
| WA | 18.8 |
| TAS | 30.4 |
| NT | 39.3 |
| ACT | 29.3 |
| 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