

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-000799

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Out of Pocket Costs

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

Please provide the most recent data for average out of pocket costs for specialists - broken down into Commonwealth electorates - broken down by quarter and year.

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is unable to provide the average out-of-pocket cost for privately billed specialist services by Commonwealth Electorate broken down by quarter and year as the considerable work involved would require a significant diversion of resources from other departmental operations.

The average out-of-pocket cost for privately billed specialist services nationally, by state and territory and by remoteness area by financial year and quarter is available on the Department of Health website at

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