

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000817

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: My Health Record

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

- a) Can you confirm the 2017-18 My Health Record Budget measure includes savings of \$305.5 million?
- b) The Budget measure notes that the savings are due to "health system efficiencies" - what are these?
- c) Please break down specific health system efficiencies - by item, year and amount - that the Government is expecting to save.
- d) How has the Government modelled these savings?
- e) What work is underway to ensure these savings are realised? What measures will the Government put in place to encourage GPs to use the Record?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) Health system efficiencies refer to avoided hospital admissions, fewer adverse drug events, reduced duplication of tests, better coordination of care for people seeing multiple healthcare providers and better informed treatment decisions. The savings in the measure specifically represent reduction in duplicate pathology and diagnostic imaging with results of prior tests being available to healthcare providers in the My Health Record.
- c) The breakdown of the health systems efficiencies is:

Savings	2017-18 (\$m)	2018-19 (\$m)	2019-20 (\$m)	2020-21 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Reduced Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging (MBS)	-8.05	-22.51	-41.95	-64.33	-136.84

- d) Savings associated with this measure were agreed with the Department of Finance.
- e) The Australian Digital Health Agency will work with healthcare providers across settings to facilitate uptake and usage of the My Health Record. The Agency will also develop and implement a comprehensive benefits realisation plan to ensure that these health system efficiencies can be monitored and realised. The Practice Incentives Program eHealth Incentive also continues to drive usage by GPs