

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000928

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: After Hours Service

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

As of March 27, 10 practitioners had been referred to the Professional Services Review to investigate potential inappropriate practice in relation to after-hours services. What is that number for 2016-17? What has been the outcome of these referrals?

Answer:

In the 2016-17 financial year to 15 June 2017, 16 practitioners have been referred to the Professional Services Review to investigate potential inappropriate practice in relation to after-hours services. Of the 16 cases:

- Eleven cases are pending a Director Professional Services Review (DPSR) outcome
- In two cases, the practitioner acknowledged inappropriate practice in regards to a range of items. Repayments of \$100,000 and \$95,000 were ordered
- In one case the practitioner was disqualified for 3 months from use of item 5040 (plus a range of non-after-hours items) and a repayment of \$200,000 was ordered
- Two cases were closed by DPSR. One of these cases was referred to the Medical Board of Australia for sudden closure of a practice without notice.