

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-001030

**OUTCOME:** 2 - Health Access and Support Services

**Topic:** After Hours GP Services

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

In the 'compact' with the RACGP it states: "Support for tightening of access to high value after hours MBS items in line with the MBS Review recommendation" "The RACGP will work with industry stakeholders and support the Government's actions to amend current MBS after-hours items..."

- a) Please outline the government's plan to 'amend current MBS after-hours items'.
- b) When will these changes be rolled out?
- c) What is the impact on patients access the scheme?

**Answer:**

- a) The Australian Government has made no decisions in relation to urgent after-hours Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) services. The independent, clinician-led MBS Review Taskforce has released draft recommendations on these services for public consultation (open 7 June – 21 July 2017). The Taskforce will consider the stakeholder feedback obtained through this process and provide its final recommendations to the Government, which will then consider its response.
- b) No timeframe has been determined for the Government's consideration of the MBS Review Taskforce's recommendations on urgent after-hours care.
- c) No changes have been decided at this time.