

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-001057

**OUTCOME:** 4 – Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Child Dental Benefits Schedule

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

**Senator:** Griff, Stirling

**Question:**

- a) The Third Review of the Dental Benefits Act 2008 found the Child Dental Benefits Schedule program was poorly promoted leading to poorer than expected take-up. What measures is the Department taking to improve outcomes, specifically to increase numbers of children accessing the scheme beyond 1m out of the 2.4m eligible?
- b) Have there been any improvements to the letter sent to families? If not, why not, given the Review found making the letter more attractive could be one means of increasing awareness of the scheme?

**Answer:**

The Australian Government will continue the current practice under which the Department of Human Services provides annual letters of direct notification to eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).

The Department of Health is currently conducting a social media campaign to promote the CDBS. The Department is also examining other options to promote the take-up of the CDBS, which may include reminder mail outs to eligible children and their carers; and poster and information distribution to clinical providers and stakeholders that may have contact with the eligible population, to raise awareness of the CDBS.