

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-356

OUTCOME 5: Primary Care

Topic: PRACTICE NURSES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

With the elimination of the relevant MBS fee for service items for practice nurse services, what information does the Department have on the effect of the Government's changes on total practice incomes and on individual GP incomes (given that all funding will now be directed to the practice)?

Answer:

The vast majority of practices that currently employ a practice nurse are expected to benefit financially as a result of the new funding arrangements. The Department is aware that the new arrangements may affect current contractual arrangements between practices and individual providers. The Department will listen to key stakeholder views through a consultation process on this issue when developing the program's implementation arrangements. The Department is actively seeking information from stakeholders as to how the measure may affect them.