

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Chronic Disease Dental Scheme

**Question reference number:** HS 27

**Senator:** Di Natale

**Type of question:** Hansard page 128

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

**Senator DI NATALE:** You made a statement earlier about the *Medicare Benefits Schedule: Dental Services* booklet that was sent to dentists by Medicare Australia. Are you aware, for example, that at page 16 of the booklet, which has the checklist for dental practitioners, there is no reference to the need for a written estimate of fees to be provided to the patient.

**Mr Rimmer:** I am looking at a version of it. Perhaps I am misunderstanding. It says, 'There needs to be a dental treatment plan, including an itemised quotation of proposed charges provided to the patient.'

**Senator DI NATALE:** I am sorry: I meant to say that the earliest version of the booklet does not have that.

**Mr Rimmer:** This is the earliest version of the booklet.

**Senator DI NATALE:** Okay. I have information from the Australian Dental Association that says otherwise.

**Mr Rimmer:** We will have to clarify that.

**CHAIR:** Take that on notice, Mr Rimmer. Get the date of that for us, please.

**Mr Rimmer:** We do not need to take the date on notice. The date of the booklet that we are referring to is 1 November 2007. We can check on notice whether any version of the booklet did not include that sentence.

**CHAIR:** That would be wonderful; it would clarify that point.

#### **Answer:**

The Department of Health and Ageing has confirmed that all versions of the *Medicare Benefits Schedule Dental Services* book included references to the requirement for dental practitioners to provide a written treatment plan and quote.