

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Fraud and Billing Areas

**Question reference number:** HS 52

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

How many cases of the incorrect Medicare claiming or fraud did the Department identify in 2014-15 in the following areas:

- a) incorrect billing;
- b) incorrect prescribing;
- c) inappropriate ordering and/or incorrect use of pathology and imaging services; and
- d) consultations billed without referrals.

#### **Answer:**

- a) In 2014-15 1,501 cases were identified to be non-compliant or fraudulent.
- b) The Department does not determine whether prescribing is correct, as this is an issue of quality of clinical practice. Quality of clinical practice is a matter for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), health service providers (hospitals and practices) and professional medical colleges.
- c) The Department does not determine whether use of pathology and imaging services is correct, as this is an issue of quality of clinical practice. Quality of clinical practice is a matter for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), health service providers (hospitals and practices) and professional medical colleges.
- d) This is a form of incorrect billing - please see (a) above.