

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000709

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Primary Health Care

**Topic:** GP Retention Rates

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

- a) Can you detail the impact of practice incentive cuts and impact on retention rates for GPs?
- b) Can you report the impact on GP retention rates since the freeze on indexation rates on Medicare?
- c) What has been the impact on bulk-billing rates?

**Answer:**

- a) No, there is no data available to determine GP retention rates in this scenario.
- b) No, as above.
- c) Bulk billing rates have a seasonal variation. For this reason, statistics are compared to the same period in the previous year to ensure a more accurate comparison. The pause on indexation for GPs was introduced in July 2015.

The bulk billing rate for non-referred (GP) attendances increased from 84.0 per cent in the September quarter of 2014 to 84.6 per cent in the September quarter 2015.