

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000883

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Private Health Insurance Rebate

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

- a) Is it correct that expenditure on the Private Health Insurance Rebate would be lowered by \$80 million a year if the rebate were removed from expenditure on unproven natural therapies
- b) When will the minister deliver a formal response to the review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for natural therapies?

Answer:

- a) Costings are confidential between the Department of Health and the Government of the day.
- b) The Report of the *Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Natural Therapies for Private Health Insurance* was released on 13 November 2015.

The Australian Government is undertaking a number of reviews aimed at ensuring that consumers can access affordable, quality and timely health services into the future. Private health insurance has important links to these reviews.

On 28 October 2015 the Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, announced a consultation process focused on the value of private health insurance for consumers and its long term sustainability.

A response to this Report will be considered as part of the broader review work.