

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000940

**OUTCOME:** 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

**Topic:** Freezing Indexation for Optometry Services

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 30, 21 October 2015

**Senator:** Siewert, Rachel

**Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: Why was that decision made? Who was consulted? And have you had feedback about the impact of that on the provision of services, particularly remote services?

Mr Stuart: All right.

Mr Bowles: Is there a time frame you are talking about there about a reduction in ophthalmology? I know there was some activity around this a while ago.

Senator SIEWERT: The schedule was cut in the beginning of the year, on 1 January, for optometry—sorry I do mean optometry.

Mr Bowles: Now I think we are back on the same page.

Mr Stuart: We were slightly confused; ophthalmology was five or six years ago.

Senator SIEWERT: Sorry. There are the cuts and also the freezing of the indexation process—so there are both things. Who was consulted?

**Answer:**

Please refer to the response provided to Question on Notice SQ15-000941.