

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000943

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Private Health Insurance Premiums

Type of Question: Hansard Page 77, 21 October 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: The two most recent rises were—and I would like you to confirm this—the highest in the past decade. Is that correct?

Mr Bowles: We will see if we have that.

Mr Stuart: Let us find our place. Please be patient with us, Senator. Our expert is unwell.

Mr Bowles: Unfortunately, has he not been with us for the last couple of weeks. He is just unwell.

Senator McLUCAS: Please send him our best wishes.

Mr Bowles: We will, thank you. We have been doing a little bit of swotting. But I think they have been relatively consistent over the last couple anyhow. We will take that on notice.

Answer:

A table of weighted average premium increases for private health insurance premium increases over the period 2000 to 2015 is below.

Year	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15
Industry Average %	1.80	-0.01	6.88	7.40	7.58	7.96	5.68	4.52	4.94	6.02	5.78	5.56	5.06	5.60	6.20	6.18