

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000953

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

**Topic:** Medicare Safety Net

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 34, 21 October 2015

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

How many additional radiation oncology patients will become eligible for benefits under the new Medicare safety net? What type of patients are these?

**Answer:**

Based on 2014-15 billing practices, the Department of Health estimates more than 1,000 additional people will receive safety net benefits for radiation oncology services in 2016 under the proposed new arrangements. This includes more than 800 concessional patients and more than 200 non-concessional patients.