

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000374

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** MBS/PBS Claims

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

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

Senator POLLEY: The decision to progress on outsourcing the MBS and the PBS claims and payments must have come from cabinet. Is that correct? Is that your understanding?

Mr Bowles: Not necessarily. Again, I would have to take it on notice because it is before my time, but it was a decision of the 2014-15 budget to look at an assessment of the claims and payments system for Medicare and to come up with a solution. That was way back in 2014, as we said, and a range of other things have happened since that time.

**Answer:**

There has never been a decision to outsource the MBS and PBS claims and payments. In the 2014-15 Budget the Government provided funding for the Department of Health to develop a proposal in consultation with the Department of Human Services to market test the delivery of a commercially integrated health payment system.