

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 27 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000396

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Bulk-Billing Figures

Type of Question: Hansard Page 31, 19 October 2016

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Senator POLLEY: Thank you very much. I am just wondering if we can go back to the bulk-billing figures. I am asking whether you could give me the figures or the bulk-billing rate for under item 23 as at June this year. That is pretty standard. That is a standard figure, so you would be able to provide that to me, please? Mr Bowles: We will not be able to provide specifics down to an item. We talked about GPs which will be the major user of that, and it is—we could probably—

Senator POLLEY: So you will be able to come back to us this afternoon with that figure?

Ms Jolly: Senator, the data that we have released on our bulk-billing we have by broad type of service.

Senator POLLEY: No, I am—

Ms Jolly: and that is to capture the range of services in general practice, not item by item.

Senator POLLEY: If you could take that on notice.

Mr Bowles: Senator, there are 5,700 items on the MBS.

Senator POLLEY: That is why I went for the most common one. If you can take that on notice, that would be fantastic. Thank you.

Answer:

The bulk billing rate for item 23 was 81.5 per cent in 2015-16, as shown in the table below. Figures for the remaining non-referred attendance types are provided in order to show a complete picture of GP services.

Bulk billing rate

| | Item 23 | All other non-referred attendances | Total non-referred attendances |
|---------|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2015-16 | 81.5% | 91.0% | 85.1% |