

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000398

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Specialist Rebates

Type of Question: Hansard Page 34, 19 October 2016

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Senator POLLEY: There has obviously been some work done by the Bureau of Statistics once again, and they are saying that one in 12 people delays or avoids seeing a specialist because of the cost. Will this ongoing freeze on specialist rebates make that better or worse?

Mr Bowles: I do not think you can necessarily link the two issues. The Bureau of Statistics uses a whole lot of data, including socioeconomic data and welfare data and a whole range of things. Without going into the specifics of it and understanding it, I cannot answer your question any further.

Senator POLLEY: If there is anything you can add on notice, that would be very useful.

Mr Bowles: We can do that.

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report that this question refers to is the Patient Experiences in Australia 2013-14 report. It can be found at:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/4839.0~2014-15~Main%20Features~Medical%20specialists~3>

Questions on this analysis should be referred to the ABS.