

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000410

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Funding

Type of Question: Hansard Page 48, 19 October 2016

Senator: Reynolds, Linda

Question:

Senator REYNOLDS: Just to put to bed some of these conspiracy theories and allegations and things that we hear in the media: you are not aware of any government intent to cut the funding that you have just outlined for the MBS, for Medicare?

Mr Bowles: No.

Senator REYNOLDS: And perhaps, on notice, you could provide those figures in writing, along with the percentages, and go back 10 years as well—the past 10 years, including the forward estimates. I think that would help the committee and possibly those out in the public as well. Mr Bowles: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

Table 1: Medicare benefits paid by financial year

Financial Year	Benefits paid	Growth
2015-16	\$21,107,750,246	4.55%
2014-15	\$20,188,930,082	5.58%
2013-14	\$19,122,556,911	3.00%
2012-13	\$18,565,616,432	5.25%
2011-12	\$17,639,225,612	8.10%
2010-11	\$16,317,617,608	5.86%
2009-10	\$15,413,726,087	8.13%
2008-09	\$14,255,231,280	9.60%
2007-08	\$13,006,526,270	10.83%
2006-07	\$11,735,563,926	

Source: Annual Medicare Statistics (<http://www.health.gov.au/medicarestats>)

Table 2: Estimated MBS expenditure

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Estimated benefits	\$21,850,644,000	\$22,572,887,000	\$23,579,689,000	\$25,025,956,000

Source: Health Portfolio Budget Statements 2016-17.