

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 31 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000489

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Podiatric surgery

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

We understand that the decision by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) to not recommend access to MBS rebates for the patients of podiatric surgeons was based on a lack of evidence on the behalf of comparator services, i.e. those provided by orthopaedic surgeons, not a lack of evidence on the behalf of podiatric surgery. Is that correct?

Answer:

No. MSAC's advice to the Minister for Health is set out in the public summary of its decision. MSAC advised the Minister that 'after considering the available evidence in relation to safety, clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, MSAC did not support public funding of Podiatric Surgeons to access a range of MBS numbers for surgery of the foot and ankle. MSAC found there was a lack of evidence for comparative safety and effectiveness in relation to comparable services, and the clinical need remained uncertain.'

MSAC's public summary document is available at
<http://www.msac.gov.au/internet/msac/publishing.nsf/Content/1344.1-public>