

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000647

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: MBS Indexation Freeze

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

The most recent statistics on Medicare usage show that the proportion of the population accessing general practice services has fallen for the first time since 2010. Is this the result of the indexation freeze?

Answer:

In the past 20 years, the percentage of patients as a proportion of the population accessing Medicare Benefits Schedule services each calendar year has ranged between 87.2 per cent and 89.6 per cent. In that time there have been eight occasions where the percentage of patients has decreased from the previous financial year. This cannot be contributed to a specific cause.

Financial year	Patients as per cent of Population
2015-16	89.3%
2014-15	89.6%
2013-14	89.3%
2012-13	88.9%
2011-12	88.7%
2010-11	88.5%
2009-10	88.5%
2008-09	87.9%
2007-08	87.7%
2006-07	87.3%
2005-06	87.6%
2004-05	87.2%
2003-04	87.2%
2002-03	87.4%
2001-02	88.0%
2000-01	88.1%
1999-00	88.5%
1998-99	89.0%
1997-98	89.2%
1996-97	89.2%