

# Senate Community Affairs Committee

## ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### HEALTH PORTFOLIO

#### Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000692

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Bulk Billing

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

For a) Australia b) each state and territory and c) each Commonwealth Electorate please provide the percentage of item 23 GP services that are bulk billed. This data should be provided by year and quarter and go back 10 years (or as far as practicable) to allow for comparison.

**Answer:**

Item 23 accounted for 62.2% of non-referred attendances in 2015-16. Other non-referred GP items account for a growing share of total GP services. They include: longer consultations in consulting rooms, consultations at places other than consulting rooms, non-VR GP items, health assessments, mental health items, after hours items, chronic disease management items and emergency after hours items.

For a) Australia by financial year for 10 years

**Table 1: Bulk billing rate for item 23, 2006-07 to 2015-16**

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Australia	74.9%	75.8%	76.7%	76.9%	77.3%	78.2%	79.1%	80.2%	81.0%	81.5%

The Department does not routinely compile bulk billing statistics by individual items. The Department is unable to provide further breakdowns for item 23 by state and territory and each Commonwealth Electorate by financial year and quarter over a 10 year period as the considerable work involved would require a significant diversion of resources from other departmental operations.