

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000695

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 patients who are bulk billed for item 23 GP services. This data should be provided by year and quarter and go back 10 years (or as far as practicable) to allow for comparison.

Answer:

The Department does not routinely compile statistics showing patient bulk billing patterns by individual MBS items. National bulk-billing patterns for patients for GP non-referred attendances have been generated and are included in SQ16-000691. 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.