

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000713

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Medicare Safety Nets

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

How much do the budget papers assume that the Government's 2014 Budget measure Simplifying Medicare safety net arrangements will save over the forward estimates? Please provide a breakdown by year.

Answer:

In the 2014-15 Budget, the new single Medicare safety net was estimated to reduce Medicare expenditure by approximately \$266.7 million over the Forward Estimates based on a 1 January 2016 commencement as shown in the below table:

	2013-14 (\$m)	2014-15 (\$m)	2015-16 (\$m)	2016-17 (\$m)	2017-18 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Estimated savings	0.0	0.0	-54.2	-115.5	-117.0	-286.7
Health Department costs	0.0	+0.9	+0.8	+0.6	+0.7	+2.9
DHS Department costs	+0.2	+4.4	+10.4	+1.8	+0.2	+17.0
Total savings	+0.2	+5.4	-43.1	-113.1	-116.1	-266.7