



Australian Government

Department of Health

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2066

Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Correction of evidence to 2016 – 17 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing,
19 October 2016**

I am writing to correct evidence provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Health in the 2016 – 17 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 19 October 2016.

In answering a question from Senator Di Natale, I said:

Mr Stuart: I have got some data here on inconstant prices. Starting in 2006-07, the percentage increases each year in out-of-pocket costs for GPs have been: 17 per cent; 16 per cent; 11 per cent—I am becoming more and more recent here—12 per cent in 2009-10; 11.3 per cent in 2010-11; eight per cent in 2011-12; 8.6 in 2012-13; nine per cent in 2013-14; five per cent in 2014-15; and 7.6 per cent in 2015-16.

Senator DI NATALE: Okay. Let's go from 2011-12. What did you say there?

Mr Stuart: 8.1.

Senator DI NATALE: And then 2012-13?

Mr Stuart: 8.6.

Senator DI NATALE: And then 13-14?

Mr Stuart: Nine per cent.

Senator DI NATALE: Okay. They are very different numbers to the numbers I have so I am—

Mr Stuart: This is inconstant prices.

Senator DI NATALE: I am talking about general practice out-of-pocket costs, increases adjusted for inflation, which sounds to me like the same.

Mr Stuart: Yes.

Senator DI NATALE: So we need to double-check that. So the 2015-16 increase was?

Mr Stuart: 7.6.

Hansard, Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, Estimates, Wednesday
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Checking subsequent to the hearing has shown that the figures I quoted had been incorrectly calculated. The correct growth figures for average patient contribution for GPs, based on constant prices, are as follows:

Financial year	% growth on previous year
2006-07	12.6%
2007-08	6.3%
2008-09	8.2%
2009-10	5.4%
2010-11	3.8%
2011-12	5.6%
2012-13	3.6%
2013-14	2.7%
2014-15	2.1%
2015-16	5.4%

Yours sincerely



Andrew Stuart
Deputy Secretary

28 November 2016