

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: Treasury**

**Question: SBT4249**

**Topic: Medicare Benefits - Letter from Nigel Ray on 22/10/2014**

**Reference: written - 31 October 2014**

**Senator: Wong, Penny**

**Question:**

4249. I refer to a supplementary letter by Nigel Ray, Executive Director of Fiscal Group provided to the Committee on 22 October 2014 where he notes the “costing of the introduction of patient contributions for some services under the Medicare Benefits Schedule anticipated a 1 per cent reduction in attendances at those services in each year”

With reference to the 1 percent reduction in attendances for MBS services, can the Department advise:

- a. How many fewer GP visits will occur each year as a result of the introduction of patient contributions for services under the MBS.
- b. What analysis if any has Treasury undertaken regarding which cohorts would be most affected by the introduction of patient contributions— including but not limited to pensioners, indigenous Australians and low income families.
- c. If the Treasury has not undertaken any analysis regarding which cohorts will be most affected, an explanation as to why this did not occur.

**Answer:**

4249.

a) This question should be addressed to the Department of Health.

b) As part of the Government decision making process, advice on the co-payment was provided to the Treasurer. In formulating this advice, Treasury undertook analysis of the co-payment.