

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 21 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000577

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: MBS Review Taskforce – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Clinical Committee

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Dodson, Patrick

Question:

- a) Have organisations or potential members for the Committee been approached yet?
- b) What timeframe has been established for the Committee?
- c) Can you please provide a list of MBS items to be considered as part of the Review?
- d) How many Indigenous specific items are on the MBS?
- e) Can a breakdown of usage of each of these items please be provided?
- f) Will non-medical practitioner members be represented on the Indigenous Health Committee?
- g) Please provide total MBS expenditure on the items being considered by the Indigenous Health Committee?
- h) Is the Department aware of any existing proposals for new Indigenous specific MBS items?

Answer:

- a) The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce has identified the need for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Clinical Committee. The Department has invited and received nominations from health providers and organisations involved in the delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- b) Timeframes have not been established for the Committee at this stage.
- c) Clinical Committees and the MBS Review Taskforce agree on scope once a Committee is established.

- d) There are 22 Indigenous specific MBS items on the MBS as follows:
 Category 8 – Miscellaneous Services
- Miscellaneous Telehealth Support Services
 - Group M12: Services provided by a Practice nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner on behalf of a medical practitioner:
 - 10983 - 10989 (6 items)
 - 10997 (1 item)
 - Group M3 - Allied Health Services
 - 10950
 - Group M11 - Allied health Services for Indigenous Australians who have had a Health Check
 - 81300 - 81360 (13 items)
- Category 1 - Professional Attendances
- A14 - Health Assessments
 - Subgroup 2 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Health Assessment
 - 715 (1 item)

- e) Usage breakdown of items:

	Items	Number of Services 2015/16
A14	00715	196,759
Group M12	10983	7,292
	10984	33
	10986	6,365
	10987	174,632
	10988	11,145
	10989	11,499
	10997	1,532,711
Group M3	10950	2,256
Group M11	81300	9,371
	81305	1,757
	81310	893
	81315	1,601
	81320	3,260
	81325	178
	81330	1,735
	81335	8,775
	81340	7,503
	81345	1,242
	81350	167
	81355	997
	81360	3,361

- f) The composition of Clinical Committees is a decision of the MBS Review Taskforce.
- g) In 2015/16 MBS expenditure on the 22 indigenous specific items totals \$67,511,268.80. However, the Committee may consider other items as well once final scope has been determined.
- h) Yes. The Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-23 proposes the development of an MBS Adolescent Health Check by 2018.