Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Medibank Outcome/Program General Topic: Medibank Legislation

Senator: Moore

Question reference number: F43

Type of question: Written or Hansard F&PA 10, 22 February 2011

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator MOORE—Also, the particular impact of the use of the legislation to provide some help for people with their premiums and how that is going to operate. Is it going to be reviewed at certain dates? I will not go into all that detail now, but if we could get that on notice that would be great.

Answer:

The premium relief initiative aimed to support members who lost their homes or suffered financial loss due to the Queensland floods. Our support entailed paying members' premiums for a maximum four-month period on a discretionary basis. The total value of the support is capped at \$200,000 and is paid out of our ex-gratia payment fund, thus not compromising community rating principles. This capped amount will not adversely affect Medibank Private's capital adequacy position, nor have undue impact on premium rises in the future.