

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 24 May 2007

Question: HS40

Agency: Medicare Australia

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: IT Expenditure – Access Card

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SENATOR LUNDY asked:

Senator LUNDY—Turning to the answers to questions on notice in relation to IT expenditure within Medicare, what proportion of the costs in that table can be attributed to the access card?

Mr Honeyman—We would have to take that on notice.

Senator LUNDY—I presume they are in those figures, though?

Mr Honeyman—They are.

Senator LUNDY—They are proportioned in those numbers?

Ms Argall—Yes, they are.

Senator LUNDY—Is there any other IT expenditure that relates to the access card specifically beyond the three contracts you have described that would be contained in the IT expenditure breakdown?

Mr Honeyman—It would be our internal ITSD staff. That would be the only additional expenditure, but that is contained in the table and in our access card expenditure.

Senator LUNDY—Right. So the IT component of the access card expenditure on the appropriation tables that we were provided would be built into that IT costs table?

Mr Honeyman—That is right.

Senator LUNDY—And you will take on notice what those numbers are?

Mr Honeyman—We will.

ANSWER:

The Government has decided not to proceed with the Access Card Program. Details of funding to be returned to the Budget will be provided as part of the forthcoming Budgetary processes. With respect to the question asked by the Senator, the answer is as follows:

The IT expenditures attributed to the access card included in the appropriation tables are:

	2006-07	2007-08
Application Development & Maintenance	\$4,240,000	Nil
Infrastructure Services	Nil	Nil
Software Maintenance & Depreciation	Nil	Nil
Hardware Maintenance & Depreciation	Nil	Nil
Communications	Nil	Nil
Other	Nil	Nil

Following discussions with the Office of Access Card about the scope of work to be undertaken during 2006-07, this estimate was increased and agreed at \$8 million for Applications Development and \$2.5 million for Communications (bandwidth upgrade). Expenditure for 2006-07 was \$4.631 million for Applications Development and \$2.074 million for Communications. IT Expenditure

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related to access card in 2007-08 was expected to total \$4.257 million for Applications Development and \$0.417 million for Communications.