

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008

Human Services Portfolio



Department/Agency: Medicare Australia
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output 1.1
Topic: Medicare Easyclaim – Budget

Senator: Helen Coonan
Question reference number: HS64

Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008

Questions:

HS64a: Has there been a target set for the percentages of increased electronic rebates as a result of extra money allocated in the Budget for the Medicare EasyClaim system?

HS64b: What software will be allocated to medical practitioners?

HS64c: What is the expected lifespan of the software?

HS64d: What will the related capital figure of \$0.7 million in the Budget Papers be spent on?

HS64e: As a result of the estimated increase take up of Medicare EasyClaim, will there be any front line staff cuts? And if so, how many?

HS64f: When will these staff cuts occur?

HS64g: Will these cuts be Australia wide?

HS64h: Please indicate which offices will be losing staff?

Answers:

HS64a: Take-up targets have not been reset as a result of the *Medicare Easyclaim – Increasing take-up* budget measure. The measure is intended to increase actual rather than targeted take-up.

HS64b: The nature of future enhancements is presently subject to consultations with key stakeholders. Changes to practice software may be part of the solution.

HS64c: Refer to response to 64b.

HS64d: The \$700,000 will be spent on changes to Medicare Australia systems to facilitate electronic claiming.

HS64e: As indicated above, there has been no increase in the targeted take-up rates.

Increases in take up of Medicare EasyClaim are being monitored and staffing decisions will be taken in the context of future business plans.

HS64f: Refer to response 64e.

HS64g: Refer to response 64e.

HS64h: Refer to response 64e.

Number of pages: 2