

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0460) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Michaelia Cash asked:

HSS: What is the process if a client needs to see a GP or a Dentist? What is the process if the client requires medication? Who pays for the medication?

Answer:

Humanitarian Settlement Services providers assist clients to register with Medicare, and to apply for Health Care Cards. They are subject to the same eligibility rules as members of the broader Australian community. Where required, service providers also assist clients to make appointments for general and specialised health services.

Like the Australian community, humanitarian clients pay for their own medication, when they require it. Clients have the same eligibility for subsidised medications under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as other permanent Australian residents.