26 September 2017

Ms Ann Palmer
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Via email: FPA.SEN@aph.gov.au

Dear Ann

**RACGP response to Questions on Notice for
Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee –
Inquiry into Medicare Information - Public Hearing held in
Melbourne, Friday 15 September 2017**

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Committee on the Circumstances in which Australians' personal information has been compromised and made available for sale illegally on the 'dark web'.

In response to questions I took on notice from Senator Di Natali, I provide further information detailed below.

Senator Di Natali sought more information regarding the RACGP written comment *'we understand that the Government had previously been alerted to the availability of Medicare card numbers on the dark web and it is not clear what response was taken at the time.'* This comment was a reflection of some media commentary at the time. It is not a remark about any issues the RACGP may have previously raised.

The Senator also sought more information on how the general practice accreditation process addresses privacy of personal information. General practices are accredited against the *Standards for general practice 4th edition*: https://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/standards/standards4thedition/, which includes criterion *4.2.1 Confidentiality and privacy of health information*. In addition, The *RACGP Computer and Information security standards* (CISS) provides further support and guidance on computer and information security. Updated editions of both resources will be launched at the end of 2017.

Independent accreditation agencies assess and accredit practices against the Standards and approximately 70% of general practices are accredited.

I trust these answers are of assistance to the committee. If you have any further queries or comments regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, Manager, eHealth and Quality Care, on (03) 8699 0544 or stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Robert Hosking
Deputy Chair
RACGP Expert Committee – eHealth and Practice Systems