

The Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into Digital Delivery of Government Services

Question no: 1

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Patrick

Question:

Can the Department of Health provide the following information on the delivery of the Modernising Health and Aged Care Payments project?

1. The budget for the project at the time of first approval to proceed?
2. The spend to date on the project?
3. The current approved budget?

Answer:

1. On 19 October 2016, the Australian Government announced the Modernising Health and Aged Care Payments Program (the Program). At 2016-17 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2017-18 (MYEFO) the Program was allocated \$31.5 million, comprising \$29.7 million for Department of Health, \$1.7 million for Department of Human Services and \$0.1 million for Department of Finance.

The 2017-18 Budget allocated \$67.3 million, comprising \$50.8 million for the Department of Health and \$16.6 million for the Department of Human Services.

At 2017-18 MYEFO the Government announced that it will provide \$16.6 million in 2017-18 for the remediation and essential maintenance of the health and aged care payment systems and ensure that the Government continues to own and operate the Information Communication Technology systems that deliver Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Aged Care and related payments into the future. The cost of this measure will be met from within the existing resources of the Department of Health.

A breakdown of the budget allocation is included below:

	2016-17	2017-18
Department of Health	\$29.7m	\$50.8m
Department of Human Services	\$1.7m	\$16.6m
Department of Finance	\$0.1m	-
TOTAL	\$31.5m	\$67.3m

2. For the period from the commencement of the Program until 28 February 2018, the Department of Health had spent a total of \$52.3million.
3. Answered in response to question 1.