

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000273

OUTCOME: 6 - Private Health

Topic: Premium Rises - Private Health Insurance

Type of Question: Hansard Page 83, 25 February 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Senator McLucas: I have some questions regarding the Private Health Insurance Administration Council...Thank you. Maybe this is a question for you, Minister. Can you confirm that that oversight role - the fact that, when there is an application, the minister has to make a judgement to approve or not approve premium rises to whatever level the company has asked for - will be maintained?

Senator Nash: I will need to take that on notice for you, it not being my area. I am happy to do that.

Answer:

Current legislation requires private health insurers to apply to the Minister for Health for approval of premium changes.

The Minister must approve proposed changes unless the Minister is satisfied that the change would be contrary to the public interest.