

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000210

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Fraud Relating to After Hours Services

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

- a) Has there been any fraud relating to the after hours services (for example, billing for services not rendered)?
- b) If so, please provide a breakdown of the type and number of fraudulent incidents detected
- c) Have any doctors been referred to professional regulatory bodies or police over fraud relating to after hours items?

Answer:

- a) A number of after-hours service providers have contacted the Department to voluntarily acknowledge incorrect claiming. Audits by the Department have also identified incorrect claiming of these services. To date, there has been insufficient evidence to warrant any referrals to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for fraud.
- b) The Department is not able to provide this information as it may prejudice ongoing audits and investigations.
- c) In the 2016-17 financial year to 27 March 2017, ten practitioners have been referred to the Professional Services Review to investigate potential inappropriate practice in relation to after-hours services.