

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Professional Services Reviews

Question reference number: HSW 8

Senator: Back

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 22 July 2011

Number of pages:

Question:

- a) Does Medicare Australia accept whistleblower alerts/complaints from members of the public, other health professionals or patients?
- b) If so, can Medicare provide detail on how they examine the validity of such allegations or claims?

Answer:

- a) Medicare Australia manages allegations of fraud, non-compliance and potential inappropriate practice through the Australian Government Services Fraud Tip-Off Line.
- b) If Medicare Australia receives information about potential inappropriate practice, the information is assessed by experienced compliance officers and the health professional may be contacted for review through the Practitioner Review Program by a Medicare Australia Medical Adviser.