

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Professional Services Review

**Question reference number:** HS 15

**Senator:** Back

**Type of question:** Hansard page 78

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### Question:

**Senator BACK:** Could you tell me or take on notice how many cases Medicare has investigated and how many cases—is ‘investigate’ the word?

**Mr Bridge:** We have a range of—

**Senator BACK:** you have passed onto the PSR in each year? If you could provide that on notice I would appreciate it.

**Mr Bridge:** We can do that.

#### Answer:

Medicare Australia undertakes audits and investigations of health professionals in relation to potential incorrect claiming or fraud.

Medicare Australia also undertakes reviews of practitioners through the Practitioner Review Program in relation to potential inappropriate practice. These matters may be referred to the Director of the Professional Services Review for independent peer review.

The breakdown of audits and investigations, cases reviewed by the Practitioner Review Program and referrals to the Director of the Professional Services Review over the last few years is provided in the table below.

Financial Year	Audits and Investigations**	Practitioner Review Program Cases Closed	Referrals to Director of the Professional Services Review
2010-11 FYTD*	1,933	239	48
2009-10	3,594	151	36
2008-09	3,663	192	137***

\* Financial year to date as at 30 April 2011.

\*\* These figures refer to reviews and investigations completed against the Medicare Benefits Schedule, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Health Support Programs, Aged Care and members of the public.

\*\*\* The reason for the high level of referrals is due to a change in methodology which resulted in the clearance of a backlog of cases in 2008-09.