

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Private Health Insurance Changes

Question reference number: HS 19

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Type of question: Hansard page 84

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Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I just have one further question. In relation to the proposed changes to the private health insurance and the changes to the rebates, as part of your budget will that affect you in any way and are there any calculations that are inserted in your budget over the forward estimates similar to the Better Access where there will possibly be an increase? Do you understand what I am getting at?

Ms Golightly: Yes, I do. I just need to check something because the legislation has not gone through. I will take your question on notice.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Is it the same methodology that you used for the Better Access?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Could you also provide me with the assumptions that underlie that?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Where would that be if it was in this table? I would have thought it would be under Health and Ageing.

Ms Campbell: It may not have been in this table because this has been a government proposal for some time and would have been inserted in the budget documents the first time the government put it forward.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: So it will be in the one where it was first proposed as the \$1.9 billion package?

Ms Campbell: It is 2008-09. That is likely, yes. I do not have that with me, but we would have updated our estimates as the legislation did not pass. We will take those questions on notice.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I understand from questions that I asked in DoHA that figures are being revised.

Ms Campbell: They are.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I assume that your figures will be revised so if you could provide me with both sets?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

Answer:

Total one-off funding of \$540,088 was provided to Medicare Australia through the 2009-10 budget for system changes required to implement changes to the Private Health Insurance Rebate. There is no change to the ongoing costs of delivering the program by Medicare Australia.