

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Public Hospital Services

Question reference number: HS 20

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Type of question: Hansard page 86

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Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Do you have any data on the number of services that are billed by practitioners in public hospitals, such as outpatient services?

Ms Golightly: I do not have it here.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: No. Probably most of what I will ask you now is to be taken on notice.

Ms Golightly: Okay.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Could you provide me with the latest data on the number of services and the value of the benefits provided?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: I would assume that you probably have data on services that have been billed to Medicare by private providers, but on referral from a practitioner located in a public hospital or outpatient setting?

Ms Golightly: I would think so. If there is a billing to Medicare, we will have data on it.

Answer:

Medicare Australia has data in respect of services rendered to privately billed patients in public and private hospitals. The total number of privately billed in-patient services provided in the 2009–10 financial year was 25,023,683. The total amount of benefits paid for privately billed in-patient services for the 2009-10 financial years was \$2,064,656,444.