

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Chronic Disease Dental Scheme – Practitioner Audits

Question reference number: HS 24

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

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Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: You have \$20 million. I take it that some of those will repay and on some you might have to take recovery action?

Mr Bridge: Correct.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Again, are they actions that DoHA takes?

Mr Bridge: No, we do that. We will be pursuing all of that \$20 million in relation to those particular cases, and further cases as we complete them.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: When will that audit be completed?

Mr Bridge: We have actually just recently increased the size of our audit activity in this territory. We currently have I think 156 active cases, and potentially several hundred more that may be subject to audit. I would anticipate that that work will continue for some period of time.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Perhaps if you could take that on notice and give me a time frame? With respect to this audit you are doing in relation to the dental scheme, when do you anticipate that that will be completed?

Ms Golightly: As Mr Bridge has mentioned, as we get more knowledge about it we are actually finding more cases. At the moment there is no end date. We know there are quite a few that we need to finish, and they are complex cases.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: All right, but you will provide me some more information on notice?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

Answer:

As at 14 June 2011, Medicare Australia had 444 audits of dental practitioner claiming under the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme underway.

There is currently no end date associated with audits into the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. Audit activities will be ongoing as Medicare Australia continues to identify non-compliance with the requirements of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme.