

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 6 May 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000359

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging - MYEFO

Type of Question: Hansard Page 30, 6 May 2016

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: In relation to the instrument, when did the department prepare the instrument?

Mr Stuart: If we were to answer that accurately, we would need to take it on notice—

Answer:

Following the release of the 2015-16 MYEFO on 15 December 2015, the Department of Health provided advice on a range of options to the Minister.

There were three instruments made since that date that affect the pathology and diagnostic imaging services. The *Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Regulation 2016* was made on 5 May 2016 and the *Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Services Table) Regulation 2016* and the *Health Insurance (Pathology Services Table) Regulation 2016* were made on 17 August 2016. All three instruments were tabled in both the House of Representatives and the Senate on 30 August 2016.

The 2015-16 MYEFO measure to change the bulk billing arrangements for diagnostic imaging and pathology was not included in these instruments. This MYEFO measure was superseded by the 'Coalition's plan for access to affordable pathology for all Australians' and the 'Coalition's plan for access to affordable diagnostic imaging for all Australians'.