

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 6 May 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000362

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Child Dental Benefit Schedule

Type of Question: Hansard Page 37, 6 May 2016

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: The budget says:

Some savings from these two programs have already been included in the forward estimates.

Mr Bowles: Yes. There are two current programs, the national partnership agreement and the child dental benefits scheme. They have been combined into—

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you tell me what the savings are, and where you would see those figures?

Mr Bowles: Not off the top of my head. I think we might have to take that on notice. We can give you the spend, if you like—the \$1.7 billion over the four years. I think Mr Cormack read out a figure of \$415.6 million before, for 2016-17.

Mr Cormack: That is right.

Senator GALLAGHER: It says, 'Some savings have been included in the forward estimates.' Can I have that figure?

Mr Cormack: We will take that one on notice. We do not have that in front of us.

Mr Bowles: Where are you reading from, Senator?

Senator GALLAGHER: I think it was in the budget papers.

Mr Bowles: We will have to take it on notice to get the actual figures for that.

Answer:

Funding for the CAPDS comes from two sources: NPA and CDBS. Using 2016/17 as the starting base the Government decided to transfer the NPA at historic levels of \$155 million per annum (three years) and shift this to the CAPDS, saving \$315 million. In addition Government decided to transfer the projected CDBS expenditure maintained at actual 2015/16 expenditure levels as opposed to budget as the take up of the CDBS had been low, saving \$1.3 billion over the forward estimates.