

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-247

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: MEDICARE SERVICES – EXTENDED MEDICARE SAFETY NET

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Medicare services indicate only a 1.3 per cent growth in 2012-13 compared to over 6 per cent in some of the other years over the forward estimates (BP1; 6-24). In the context of understanding the whole of portfolio figures, can you explain why you are anticipating such limited growth in Medicare in 2012-13 (the Extended Medicare Safety Net savings are only anticipated to provide \$9.4 million in 2012-13 - not enough to account for this decline in growth (BP2; 176)).

Answer:

Estimates for 2012-13 only include Chronic Disease Dental Scheme expenditure for five months, contributing to the estimated rate of growth.