

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001171

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Co-payment

Type of Question: Hansard Page 63, 22 October 2014

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: So, when I get blood taken out of me at a pathology centre, usually it is at a collection clinic; it is not—you are smiling, Minister. What is the breakdown of where it is easy to collect a co-payment and where it is not, where it is a nurse in a medical centre who just takes the blood and sends it off and there is no-one in an administrative sense to collect a co-payment?

Dr Bartlett: I think the way I would describe it is that the smaller providers—as Mr Learmonth described them, the boutique providers—are essentially working in areas where there are significant patient billings now. That would suggest they have the means of dealing with this.

Senator XENOPHON: You cannot give me a breakdown of that, can you, or an approximate breakdown?

Dr Bartlett: I think I could give you an approximate breakdown, but I would have to take that on notice.

Senator XENOPHON: I am very happy for you to take it on notice.

Answer:

On 9 December 2014, the Government announced that the \$7 Medicare co-payment measure announced in the 2014-15 Budget will no longer proceed.