

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001173

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Co-payment

Type of Question: Hansard Page 064, 22 October 2014

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: Finally, has any assessment been undertaken as to whether a lesser increase in the number of tests would have any impact on avoiding an adverse outcome that could have been determined by a test?

Dr Bartlett: There is no way we could undertake such an assessment. I would have to say, for a start, there are a significant number of pathology tests that are essentially given by GPs to patients that are never filled. I cannot tell you what the impact of those is in terms of what is happening here. What we are anticipating here is a very small change on the margins of things. Whether or not that has any more or less of an effect on what is already happening, we could not—

Senator XENOPHON: Please take on notice how this will work administratively, because that is a complaint I have had, which I believe is a legitimate concern.

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.