

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 22 October 2014

Ref No: SQ14-001174

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Co-payment

Type of Question: Hansard Page 068, 22 October 2014

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

Dr Bartlett: Senator, I do not know about the specifics of the practice. I do not know about the places it is getting its income from; we talked at some length last estimates about AMSs and their various income sources. I do not know enough about the practice in question to offer any meaningful opinion.

Senator McLUCAS: I am sure that they are using their chronic disease system as best as they can, but we are talking about people who are very vulnerable.

Dr Bartlett: But, Senator, I do not know whether they have alternative funding that is also helping them; I do not know their item mix; there is a whole range of things about them that I have no idea of, so I cannot comment in any meaningful way.

Senator McLUCAS: And their assessment of a 42 per cent reduction in remuneration for a short consultation: do you have any comment about that?

Dr Bartlett: Senator, I could not comment on the exact percentage. But in terms of what you are describing—which is the percentage effect of the \$5 reduction in the rebate, and any low-gap incentive if that is not payable—that will obviously be higher on the lower rebate items.

Senator McLUCAS: Yes. So 42 per cent is about right.

Dr Bartlett: I do not know. The logic is right, but I do not know whether the actual numbers are right. I would have to take that on notice to check it.

Senator McLUCAS: Okay, thank you.

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.