

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000955

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Medicare Safety Net

Type of Question: Hansard Page 35, 21 October 2015

Senator: McLucas, Jan

Question:

How frequently will a patient need to access psychiatry services and at what cost in order to become eligible for benefits under the new safety net arrangements beginning 1 January 2016?

Answer:

The Department of Health gave a full account of the new Medicare safety net and the changes in its submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee for the Inquiry into the *Health Insurance Amendment (Safety Net) Bill 2015*.

On 1 December 2015, the Government announced that it has paused discussion on this measure while it undertakes subsequent work on its broader healthier Medicare reform package. Any proposed changes will therefore not come into effect on 1 January 2016.