

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

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OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Indexation

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Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question:

Senator McLUCAS: Have we looked at what the change in out-of-pocket cost for patients might be as a result of the indexation freeze?

Mr Stuart: For those who are not bulk-billed the average patient contribution per service for GPs went from \$31.03 to \$32.16—a change of 3.6 per cent.

Senator McLUCAS: And that was between the—

Mr Stuart: Between 2013-14 and 2014-15. Again, we do not have in front of us how that differs from previous years. I do not have a time series for that here.

Mr Bowles: But it is likely that that is on a similar trajectory from the past. We can have a look at that.

Senator McLUCAS: I would like to have a look at that.

Answer:

Average patient contribution for GP services (patient billed)										
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Out-of-pocket	\$15.82	\$18.19	\$20.20	\$22.16	\$24.08	\$25.88	\$27.65	\$29.32	\$31.03	\$32.16
Growth		14.98%	11.05%	9.70%	8.66%	7.48%	6.84%	6.04%	5.83%	3.64%