

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000422

OUTCOME: 4 - Individual Health Benefits

Topic: Hospital

Type of Question: Hansard Page 064, 19 October 2016

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Senator DI NATALE: Do you have a breakdown for hospital and general?

Ms Duffy: Yes. For total hospital treatment, participation was 47 per cent and general treatment was 55.7 per cent.

Senator DI NATALE: How does that compare with figures from previous years?

Ms Duffy: In the previous year, hospital was 47.4, general was 55.8 and total was 55.9.

Senator DI NATALE: So that is a drop in coverage?

Ms Duffy: It is a small drop.

Senator DI NATALE: Is that the first time we have seen a drop in coverage in recent years? When was the last time we saw a decrease in coverage?

Ms Duffy: I do not have that information; I would have to take that on notice.

Senator DI NATALE: But it would be fair to say we have not seen one in recent years. I think I have been doing this now for four or five years.

Ms Duffy: It has been pretty static.

Senator DI NATALE: I have asked that question pretty consistently, and it has been going up or has been static for the last five years; there has not been a decrease. Would that be a fair statement?

Ms Duffy: I will take that on notice.

Mr Bowles: I think you are right. It has been relatively stable over the last number of years, but slightly changing.

Answer:

Hospital treatment participation rates have increased by 0.9 per cent since September 2011.

Participation %	Hospital coverage
2011-12	46.60%
2012-13	46.90%
2013-14	47.30%
2014-15	47.40%
2015-16	47.00%

Sourced from APRA publically available data.

During the same five year period, total private health insurance participation rates have increased by 2.1 per cent.