

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000659

OUTCOME: 0 - Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Flexible Funds

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Watt, Murray

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of savings from the Health Department Flexible Funds since 2013, by:

- a) Year;
- b) Flexible Fund;
- c) Program; and
- d) Recipient.

Answer:

Three Budget measures have applied savings to the former flexible funds:

- The 2016-17 Budget measure *Health Flexible Funds – pausing indexation and achieving efficiencies* achieved savings of \$182.2 million, at a rate of 3 per cent per year for three years from 1 July 2017 and continued the pause to indexation to 2019-20.
- The 2015-16 Budget measure *Rationalising and Streamlining Health Programmes* achieved savings of \$596.2 million, at a rate of 2.8 per cent for four years from 1 July 2015.
- The 2014-15 Budget measure *Health Flexible Funds – pausing indexation and achieving efficiencies* achieved savings of \$197.1 million over three years from 1 July 2015.

To date, no other savings have applied to the former flexible funds. The changes to the structure of the funding honoured the existing contractual arrangements at that point in time.