

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000699

**OUTCOME:** 4 - Individual Health Benefits

**Topic:** Bulk Billing

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

For a) Australia b) each state and territory and c) each Commonwealth electorate, please provide the percentage of patients who are bulk billed for specialist services. This data should be provided by year and quarter and go back 10 years (or as far as practicable) to allow for comparison.

**Answer:**

The Department of Health does not routinely compile statistics showing patient bulk billing patterns for specialist attendances. The Department is unable to provide breakdowns by state and territory and each Commonwealth Electorate by financial year and quarter over a 10 year period as the considerable work involved would require a significant diversion of resources from other departmental operations.