

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: AET 101-107

Topic: Proposals for a Medicare Co-payment

Reference: written - 06 March 2015

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

101. Throughout this GP Tax process, what consultation has been had with small businesses that would need to implement changes to their fee structures and payment arrangements.
102. What advice has been given to the Minister or Treasurer about how the proposed changes would affect billing arrangements for these small businesses?
103. In developing this advice, what consultation has Treasury had with small business?
104. Following the Minister's announcements to consult more, what consultations has Treasury had with small business?
105. When and how were doctors advised of the \$20 reduction in the scheduled Medicare fee?
106. What analysis was undertaken to assess the impact on small business?
107. Was a Regulatory Impact Statement prepared for Cabinet on the impact of changes to small business?

Answer:

101 & 105: The GP co-payment was not a tax revenue measure. As such questions **101** and **105** should be referred to the Department of Health.

102 & 106: As part of the Government decision making process, advice on the co-payments was provided to the Treasurer. In formulating this advice, Treasury undertook analysis of the co-payments.

103 & 104: Consultations on have been led by the Department of Health.

107: Treasury does not provide information on matters relating to Cabinet