

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

Question: BET 51

Topic: Medicare Levy

Hansard Page: Wednesday 5 June 2013, Page 72-73

Senator FIFIELD asked:

Senator FIFIELD: Mr Heferen, your colleague in Finance, Mr Tune, was very helpful in providing 10 years of expenditure figures for the NDIS. Mr Ray was very helpful in providing a 10-year breakdown of the savings which will go towards the NDIS. I was hoping to be able to get the same in terms of the revenue collected by the increase in the Medicare levy.

Mr Heferen: On page 28 of Budget Paper No. 2—as is usual, the gain to revenue in each year over the forward estimates is identified. In the text it talks about the gain to revenue of \$20.4 billion to 2018-19. It does not have a breakdown. I am not aware of that breakdown being anywhere in the budget papers. Did you want the breakdown?

Senator FIFIELD: Yes, I was hoping—just so that I had a complete data series for expenditure, the savings and the revenue.

Mr Heferen: If I could take that on notice—

Senator FIFIELD: If you could. The timeframe is up to 2023-24.

Senator Wong: I will put down the marker I put down in the opening session—we will take it on notice and consider it, but we have already provided substantial amounts of information for a period beyond the forward estimates, certainly more than—

Senator FIFIELD: I like your style—

Senator Wong: You like my style? I am pleased to hear that, but we have done that for the reasons I outlined today, which are the importance of demonstrating that these very important investments in the future have structural spends to sustainably fund them. But the government is not budgeting over 10 years.

Senator FIFIELD: No, but that does not mean the information would not be helpful and much appreciated.

Senator Wong: It might be argued that that is what that is actually asking for. Anyway, we will take that on notice.

Senator FIFIELD: No more so than being provided with expenditure figures over that time.

Senator Wong: We have given you the \$20.4 billion figure.

Senator FIFIELD: Yes. I already had the \$20.4 billion figure, but it is the disaggregation that I would appreciate.

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Answer:

See answer to BET 36.