

Question: 31

Topic: Non-conventional therapies

Written: 31 October 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since 7 September 2013:

1. Are non-conventional therapies, for staff or ministerial use, able to be provided by the department/agency? (Including, but not limited to: music therapy, hypnosis, acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy, naturopathy, etc.). If yes:
 - a) What is the process by which these therapies can be approved?
 - b) Who are they available to?
 - c) Please detail the reasons the therapies are able to be provided (e.g. work place agreement, recommended by a report to the department, etc.)?
2. Has the department/agency paid for any non-conventional therapy for any minister or staff? If yes:
 - a) What therapies have been provided?
 - b) What were they used to treat?
 - c) What was the cost of the therapy?

Answer

Employees may seek the reimbursement of costs associated with medical treatments, generally up to \$400 per employee in a 12 month period, for reported incidents of work-related injuries and where, on each occasion, the practitioner attests that the treatment was provided in response to the work-related injury. Treatments may include non-conventional therapies such as chiropractic or acupuncture treatments.

Employees who report a work-related incident may be entitled to a reimbursement through the department's enterprise agreement or SES employees' collective determination.

No reimbursement has been made for non-conventional therapies to staff.

As a parliamentary department, the department does not report to a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.