

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/128) - Visa holder use of Australian residents Medicare card - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Roberts, Malcolm (L&CA 84) asked:

Senator ROBERTS: In the last decade when people come to Australia on a visa to visit family, how many of those use someone else's Medicare card to get medical treatment?

Senator McKIM: How would you know?

Senator ROBERTS: Exactly.

Senator McKIM: You have just answered your own question.

Senator ROBERTS: That is not the question.

Mr Pezzullo: So they attend a GP and present that card in order to, I guess, gain bulk-billing. I would have to take that on notice as to whether we have any data-matching information that would allow us to answer that question—unless officers otherwise know.

Ms Dacey: I would be surprised if we could answer that.

Answer:

The Department does not hold the records required to accurately answer this question.