

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 31

Topic: Private Health Insurance – Income Brackets

Hansard Page: E57

Senator Cormann asked:

Mr Ray—Yes, but another way of looking at this—and I think the government has spoken about this—is that, when this policy was introduced, about eight per cent of single taxpayers were affected by it. Under the government’s policy, around nine per cent of single taxpayers will be affected by it by 2011-12.

Senator CORMANN—It is funny that you should mention that, because I was going to ask you a question about that as well. You make the point that it will be about nine per cent at the end of the forward estimates. How many taxpayers in 2008-09?

Mr Ray—I do not have that in front of me but I can take it on notice.

Senator CORMANN—You have the figure for 2011-12 but you do not have the figure for 2008-09? I have to say that this is not very satisfactory, Mr Ray. As you are taking all these things on notice, could you please provide us with information on how many single Australians earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year and how many couples and families currently earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000 currently have private health insurance. The Managing Director of Medibank Private has told us that 85 per cent of Australians in that income bracket have health insurance. As you mentioned earlier, you have access to the best possible data because you would be very clearly aware as to who is and who is not paying that Medicare levy surcharge. Are you able to answer that today or do you have to take it on notice?

Mr Ray—I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Information on how many single Australians earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year and how many couples and families currently earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000 currently have private health insurance is not publicly available.