

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 35

Topic: Medicare Levy Surcharge – States and Territories #1

Hansard Page: E60

Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN—Okay. Have you received any formal or informal representations from any state or territory government since the budget, putting the case for additional funding to compensate—

Mr Ray—Are you asking whether the government has?

Senator CORMANN—Yes.

Mr Ray—We would need to take that on notice and ask the government.

Answer:

State officials have noted the possible impact of changes to the Medicare Levy Surcharge on demand for public hospital services in the context of COAG's consideration of new Commonwealth/State financial relations including for health, which are to be finalised by December 2008.

New South Wales has recently expressed support for the changes to the Medicare Levy Surcharge in the press. A spokesperson for the NSW Minister for Health, the Hon. Reba Meagher, MP said, “The Iemma Government welcomes any changes to Medicare that bring relief to working families, but will monitor the changes closely to make sure they do not have any adverse effects” (The Australian, 12 July 2008).