

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates February 2005

Question: HS4

Outcome 2

Topic: Health Care Cards

Hansard Page: F&PA 121

Senator McLucas asked on 15 February 2005:

On the issue of health care concession cards, it has been suggested that a crackdown on the misuse of Commonwealth health care concession cards could net the federal government up to \$400 million in savings. I must say I do not have the reference to that comment, and I apologise for that. Is that anywhere near the ballpark of what compliance with health care cards could deliver?

Answer:

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme – Improved Entitlement Validation of Concession Cards measure announced in the 2003–04 Federal Budget is expected to net savings to Government of \$30.7 million over four years.