

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and Agencies

Additional Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 16 February 2007

Question: HS35

Agency: Medicare Australia

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Medicare Easyclaim

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SENATOR WONG asked on 16/02/07:

[In relation to savings from Medicare electronic claiming]

Ms Mellor—There will be other savings as we move through the period of those years looking at the different channels that are offered. We will not have as much cash handling or as many cheques. Different channels will reap savings as well.

Senator WONG—Can you provide details of those savings?

Ms Argall—We can provide those on notice.

Answer:

Savings over the forward estimates total \$137.4 million and arise because of the reduction in the number of cash and cheque claims being processed as patients move to electronic claiming channels. The \$137.4 million comprises savings in salaries, printing, postage and cheque production and the costs of operating alternate claiming channels.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes at an estimated cost of \$255.