

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Monies recovered

Question reference number: HS35

Senator: FIFIELD

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 116, 9 February 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator FIFIELD – How much money do you recover?

Mr Bridge – In the order of \$6 million to \$7 million a year, although in the year to date we are in that order already. The cash recoveries in our compliance programs have always been relatively small amounts, in comparison to things like the impact we have on planning behaviour across the medical profession. Traditionally, our compliance programs have been able to generate in the order of \$250 million a year of reductions in the system, but cash recoveries is a very small portion of that.

Senator FIFIELD – Would you mind providing the figures for the cash recoveries and the reductions for the last three years?

Mr Bridge – Yes, I will do that

Answer:

The total number of recoveries identified for the last three full financial years, and this financial year to date is:

Financial Year	Recoveries Identified
2006-07	\$3.369m
2007-08	\$6.821m
2008-09	\$6.184m
2009-10 FYTD	\$6.957m

The impact of Medicare Australia's compliance program is realised through a combination of:

- recoveries of benefits incorrectly or inappropriately claimed;
- changes in claiming behaviour by those contacted or subject to Medicare Australia compliance activity; and

- the deterrent effect on future non-compliant behaviour through the awareness of compliance activities being undertaken by Medicare Australia under the compliance program.

Total reductions in program outlays from compliance activity undertaken by Medicare Australia are:

Financial Year	Reductions
2006-07	\$250m
2007-08	\$264m
2008-09	\$288m
2009-10 FYTD	Not available*

*Reductions are reported annually, and 2009-10 financial year figures are not currently available.