

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

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

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Cataract surgery

**Question reference number:** HS64

**Senator:** KROGER

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

The following questions relate to the new Medicare rebate for cataract surgery (Medicare item 42702) announced by the Minister for Health on 29 January 2010<sup>1</sup>:

- a) When did the old rebate of \$623.70 cease to operate?
- b) When did the new rebate of \$548.85 come into effect?
- c) How many patients claimed a rebate between the dates referred to in questions (a) and (b) above?
- d) Will those patients be reimbursed for extra expense incurred under the lower rebate that applied during that time?

#### **Answer:**

- a) The old 75 per cent rebate of \$623.70 ceased on 31 October 2009.
- b) The new 75 per cent rebate of \$548.85 commenced on 1 February 2010.
- c) A total of 16,120 patients claimed a rebate for Medicare item 42702 between 1 November 2009 and 31 January 2010.
- d) Medicare benefits are paid according to the legislative Medicare schedule fee applicable on the date the service is rendered.

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<sup>1</sup> See Hon Nicola Roxon, 'Media Release: Government and Ophthalmologists Agree to Compromise on Cataract Fees' 29 January 2010