

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 26 May 2005

Question: HS26

Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1

Topic: Health Insurance Commission - Safety Net data provided to Department of Health and Ageing

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: F&PA 82 26/5/05

SENATOR McLUCAS asked:

You would be aware that the health minister put out a press statement on 12 March 2004 saying that 450,000 individuals and families in any one year would benefit from the safety net. I am trying to ascertain what data was being provided to the Department of Health and Ageing by HIC at that time.

Ms Argall—We have said there were de-identified daily data transfers between the Health Insurance Commission and the Department of Health and Ageing.

Senator McLucas—But currently it is different to what was happening in February and March of 2004?

Ms Argall—Not as far as I am aware. There was an additional weekly report that was produced after the introduction of the safety net.

Senator McLucas—If you could table that, it might be of assistance.

Answer:

The HIC provides the Department of Health and Ageing with a daily transmission of de-identified Medicare processing concerning the safety net.

The daily transmission includes the following data fields: servicing provider number, servicing provider practice location, servicing provider postcode, servicing provider speciality, servicing provider state, source office where claim was processed, date of lodgement, date of processing, encrypted patient Medicare Card number, patient's current Medicare card issue number, patient's Personal ID Number, sex, date of birth, patient's postcode, enrolment code, enrolment type, method of payment, base item number, aggregate item number, date of service, amount fee charged, amount benefit paid, amount of gap benefit paid, schedule fee for item(s) claimed, processing indicator used in assessment, reason code used in assessment/rejection, requesting/referring provider number, requesting/referring provider practice location, request or referral date, provider number of provider receiving payment, hospital indicator and approved pathology indicator.

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HS 26 Attachment A is a copy of the weekly safety net report provided to the Department of Health and Ageing for week ending 1 May 2004. The report is a cumulative activity from 1 January 2004.