

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007

Question: HS18

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Access Card Use for Identity Purposes

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SENATOR NETTLE asked on 24/05/2007:

Senator NETTLE—So there is no decision yet on whether the pharmacy buys their reader?

Senator Ellison—We factored into the budget that there will be some allocation. I will take that on notice unless we have the information on the costing now.

Ms Hartland—I do not have the specific costing here.

Senator Ellison—We will take that on notice, because it is factored into the budget as essential...

Senator Ellison—We will take it on notice and see what we can add. The department has done walk-throughs in relation to pharmacies, hospitals and doctors' surgeries to go through and see what is required in the process and what the costs might be. There has been a fair degree of research done in that regard for those providers, because a lot of those people are really at the coalface—quite different from the picture theatre which is giving a concessional ticket. The department has been working on that. We will see what we can add to that. We will take it on notice and give you more detail.

... Going around in circles otherwise. I will take it on notice.

Answer:

The Government has decided not to proceed with the Access Card Program. Details of funding to be returned to the Budget will be provided as part of the forthcoming Budgetary processes.

With respect to the specific question asked by the Senator, the answer is as follow:

It had been envisaged that the Department of Human Services would have procured transaction delivery services through an accreditation process for Point of Sale Terminals located in Commonwealth Service Provider locations, i.e. medical practices, pharmacies and allied health providers.