

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES – 28 May 2009**

**Human Services Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Medicare Australia

**Outcome/Output Group:** Outcome 1 / Output Group 1

**Topic:** Prescription Shopping Program

**Senator:** Senator Scott Ryan

**Question reference number:** HS27

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2009

**Question:**

**HS27a:** Has the Department undertaken or commissioned any research on the cost associated with doctor/prescription shopping to the taxpayer in terms of Medicare or PBS costs?

**HS27b:** If so, what is the cost?

**HS27c:** If not, why has no such research been undertaken?

**Answer:**

**HS27a-c:** The Prescription Shopping Program (PSP), which is administered by Medicare Australia, was designed to reduce the excess supply of PBS medicines by providing information and education to providers and patients.

Medicare Australia is currently undertaking a research project to identify the impact of the PSP on claiming against PBS and Medicare. The results of this project will be available in late 2009.

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