

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 MAY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Recovery of Money – Home Insulation Program

Question reference number: HS31

Senator: FIERRANVANTI-WELLS

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 124

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Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you give me a breakdown of that, if you do not mind. In other words, if the moneys have come through and been paid out by Medicare, does it come within your purview to recover those moneys? Is Medicare involved in the recovery of any moneys from installers? There was talk about that.

Ms Golightly—I will check this, Senator, but I am pretty sure that that is a matter for the department of environment. In fact, I am virtually positive it is, unless someone corrects me.

Answer:

Medicare Australia is involved in the recovery of moneys from installers in limited circumstances only. Under the Service Agreement between Medicare Australia and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts signed in June 2009, clause 2.6a requires that:

- ‘2.6 In providing the services, Medicare Australia will not be responsible for:
- a. debt recovery (except in the circumstances where a processing error by Medicare Australia results in an incorrect payment or overpayment being made); or recovery of monies, except in the circumstances where the error is caused by a failure of Medicare Australia to make payments in accordance with this Service Arrangement resulting in an incorrect payment or an overpayment being made.’

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency is responsible for the recovery of incorrect payments to installers under the Home Insulation Program that fall outside this Service Agreement.