

# **Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 MAY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

### **Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** General Practice Immunisation Incentive Program

**Question reference number:** HS32

**Senator: FIERRAVANTI-WELLS**

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA page 125

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 July 2010

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

**Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS**—In the interests of time, I will put some more questions about that on notice. I notice that you have information lines for people to ring in about the immunisation services incentive payments and program.

**Ms Golightly**—Yes.

**Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS**—I thought that program had been abolished, but you have still got an information line in relation to it.

**Mr Czabania**—As far as I am aware, the information line has not been abolished for the childhood immunisation register.

**Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS**—But I notice budget papers for 2008-09 say the practice incentive program, removal of general practice immunisation service incentive payment, was abolished, so perhaps you might like to just check. If the program is abolished I am interested to see that the information line is still there and I wonder whether a fee is still being paid in relation to that. Please take that on notice.

**Ms Golightly**—I think there may be a difference between an incentive program for immunisation and the immunisation program. We will take it on notice.

#### **Answer:**

The General Practice Immunisation Incentive (GPII) was established in 1998 as part of a broader measure aimed at improving childhood immunisation levels.

The incentive was subsequently redeveloped in 2003 to introduce two components - a Service Incentive Payment paid to providers, and an Outcomes Payment paid to practices.

The Service Incentive Payment component was payable to eligible providers based on the number of relevant Medicare Benefit Schedule items that were utilised by the provider. The GPII outcomes payment component is payable to practices participating in the GPII that achieve a target of 90 per cent or greater proportions of immunisation coverage of children under seven years attending their practice within a twelve month period.

As part of the 2008–09 Budget, the GPII Service Incentive Payment component was ceased from 1 October 2008. The GPII outcomes payment component is still operational.

The GPII enquiry line (1800 246 101) is available to support providers with enquiries relating to the eligibility and qualifying requirements for the GP Immunisation Incentive program. As at 30 May 2010, the enquiry line had received 6167 calls for 2009–10.