

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Estimates 2004-2005

Question: HS 4-HIC

Topic: Abortion Providers Investigated by HIC

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice:

Senator Harradine asked:

How many abortion providers are currently being investigated by HIC or other authorities for overcharging and other anomalies? How many of such investigations have been completed this calendar year? Please provide details.

Answer:

Five providers have been investigated regarding the billing of a co-payment in association with direct billing. Three of these investigations have been completed, two resulted in no further action, and the third investigation resulted in the individual agreeing to change his/her billing practices. The other two investigations are still in progress.

A sixth provider was investigated for possible misuse of item 16525, an item specifically for late term termination. As a result of this investigation, the HIC took administrative measures to prevent use of this item by the provider who has now ceased billing this item number.