

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009

Medibank Private Limited

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Program 2.1

Topic: Medibank Private Limited

Question reference number: F15

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 9, 20 October 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Cormann asked:

So can you confirm for me that what is happening to the Medibank rebate is a direct result of the government's decision to cut the rebate? It is not based on an assessment that you have done internally as to the cost structures and the fee structures moving forward for cataract surgery?

Mr Savvides—I am not sure whether we have done any research internally. I can take that on notice and check that, because we may have done that as well. I am not sure.

Answer:

Medibank Private Limited (Medibank) customers receive an additional reimbursement of medical fees over and above the Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) fee under our gap cover scheme. To date, Medibank has not changed its policy related to the calculation of gap fees for cataract surgery and gap cover payments will remain the same proportion of the MBS fee as they were before this change. Medibank continually monitors customers' out-of-pocket costs but does not undertake specific analysis on the appropriateness of MBS fees.