

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: F17

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:

The government is cutting the rebate by about \$310. It is reported that you are cutting it by about \$290, so that is an increase in cost for private patients of about \$600. Are you concerned that increasing out-of-pockets will make access to this type of surgery unaffordable for many of your members?

Mr Savvides—I am concerned about out-of-pockets for our members full stop. We work hard to negotiate with providers to either remove out-of-pockets entirely or keep them at a rate which we believe is competitive and affordable. On this particular item, I will do some work on it, have a look and come back and answer your question.

Answer:

The out of pocket cost will depend on what fees are charged by doctors and we will continue to monitor this.