

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 October 2009 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Payment Accuracy Review

Question reference number: HS66 (a-c)

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

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

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Question:

- a) Medicare also conducts Payment accuracy reviews (PARs) of providers and patients to measure the accuracy of payments made by Medicare. How many PARs were conducted in 2008–09?
- b) How many have been conducted so far in 2009–10?
- c) Of the PARs made, how many incidences of inaccurate payments have been exposed?

Answer:

PARS are conducted by Medicare Australia to provide an estimate of the overall level of payment accuracy in the administration of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) programs.

- a) In 2008–09, Medicare Australia conducted PARS on 5,186 MBS transactions and 5,377 PBS transactions.
- b) In the 2009–10, as at 16 November, Medicare Australia had conducted PARS on 1,937 MBS transactions and 1,531 PBS transactions.
- c) Of the PARS conducted in 2008–09, 25 out of 5,186 MBS transactions and 22 out of 5,377 PBS transactions were identified as incorrectly paid.

In 2009–10, as at 16 November, five out of 1,937 MBS transactions and one out of 1,531 PBS transactions were identified as incorrectly paid.