

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Medibank Private Ltd

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Benefit leakage

**Senator:** Bernardi

**Question reference number:** F44

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA Committee, page 13, 18 Oct 2011

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator BERNARDI:** You will have to take this next question on notice, clearly. Are you able to provide me with the disciplinary action? Do you note the disciplinary action that is taken against healthcare providers by the professional associations or by the police? Do you keep an overall catalogue of that in the industry?

**Mr Savvides:** Yes, when we are directly involved in the follow-through because we want to see the outcome—

**Senator BERNARDI:** Not just for you; do you do it industry-wide and make assessments? Surely that would be the case if there has been a complaint elsewhere.

**Mr Savvides:** Yes, I think our team talks to other groups in the sector who are investigators as well. We do have a shared resource. I can take that on notice. If you are interested in how vigorous we are in following that through and what actually occurs, we can certainly provide a summary of that.

**Senator BERNARDI:** I would be interested in the ultimate result—say, if 15 dentists have been disciplined, what happens? I just want the broad numbers and the industry sectors in which they are operating.

**Mr Savvides:** I am happy to take that on notice

**Answer:**

The Private Health Insurance (PHI) industry body, the Private Healthcare Australia (formerly the Australian Health Insurance Association) coordinates a cross-industry risk management working group which meets quarterly to discuss matters relating to benefit leakage and fraud. Whilst privacy constraints prevents discussion of specific cases, the working group enables the sharing of information and general intelligence which is highly valuable. There is also a database that shares de-identified information relating to benefit leakage and fraud between funds.

In 2010, 14 allied health providers were disciplined by Medibank through either removal from the Health Industry Claims and Payments Service (HICAPS), the industry-wide electronic point of service claim system, or de-recognition as a provider, meaning services they provide are no longer eligible for benefits under any PHI system. Eighty-six other matters were resolved through either restitution or a brief provided to police.