

BRIEF**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2018 - 2019**

HEALTH PROVIDER COMPLIANCE & PROCEEDS OF CRIME**KEY POINTS**

- The Department of Health does not have the power to restrain and sell off assets under any Health legislation.
- The process to apply powers to restrain and sell off assets is referred to as the Proceeds of Crimes Act (POCA), which is administered by the Australian Federal Police (AFP).
- Where the Department identifies a fraud matter with significant associated costs the matter is raised with the AFP who has a dedicated team to assist government agencies.
- The AFP will consider the matter and determine if POCA should and could be utilised in a specific matter.
- The AFP would be best placed to provide information on the POCA process.
- The Department is working with AFP to help identify matters where POCA could be appropriately utilised.
- To date, the Department has no debts to the Commonwealth where POCA has resulted in the restraining and selling of an individual's assets.

FACTS & FIGURES

- The Department raised \$29 million in debts against providers and recovered more than \$13 million in 2016-17 – Department of Health 2017, Annual Report 2016-17.
- In 2016-17 there were 29 successful prosecutions as the result of the Department of Health's compliance program
- The Department raised \$49 million in debts against providers and recovered more than \$22 million in 2017-18. The Department identified \$148 million in savings from behavioural change resulting from compliance activities conducted in prior years. – Department of Health, Annual Report 2017-18.
- In 2017-18 there were 20 successful prosecutions as the result of the Department of Health's compliance program.

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ACTUAL IMPACT

- The Department is currently working with the AFP with respect to an investigation where POCA may be employed for the first time.

BACKGROUND

- The Provider Benefits Integrity Division of the Department is responsible for protecting the integrity of Australia's health payments system through prevention, identification and treatment of incorrect claiming, inappropriate practice and fraud by health care providers and suppliers, and management of pharmacy approvals and pathology rents regulations.

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