

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2013 - 2014, 26 February 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000267

OUTCOME: 13 - Acute Care

Topic: Hospitals

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: McLucas Jan

Question:

How many elective surgery operations were undertaken in the 2013 calendar year? And what is the state breakdown of this number?

Answer:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports elective surgery waiting list statistics in its annual publication: Australian hospital statistics: *elective surgery waiting times*. A copy of the relevant table is attached which provides a full jurisdictional breakdown. The latest published figures are for the 2012-13 financial year, during which there were 673,316 admissions from waiting lists for elective surgery.

Table 2.2: Admissions from waiting list for elective surgery, state and territories, 2008–09 to 2012–13

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	Change (%)	
						Average since 2008–09	Since 2011–12
New South Wales^(a)							
Number of hospitals	97	96	96	96	96		
Number of admissions	200,775	199,912	206,266	211,452	216,106	1.9	2.2
Estimated proportion ^(b)	99	100	100	100	100	0.1	0.0
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	28.7	28.2	28.7	29.1	29.4	0.6	0.9
Victoria^(a)							
Number of hospitals	31	32	32	32	32		
Number of admissions	148,516	156,598	157,572	154,079	153,415	0.8	-0.4
Estimated proportion ^(b)	77	79	78	77	80	0.8	3.5
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	28.0	28.9	28.7	27.6	27.0	-0.9	-2.2
Queensland^(d)							
Number of hospitals	32	32	32	29	33		
Number of admissions	112,876	116,863	117,277	114,328	119,767	n.p.	n.p.
Estimated proportion ^(b)	98	98	98	89	98	0.0	9.8
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	26.4	26.8	26.4	25.3	26.0	-0.4	n.p.
Western Australia^(e)							
Number of hospitals	13	14	14	36	35		
Number of admissions	60,701	61,634	65,142	82,248	84,981	n.p.	3.3
Estimated proportion ^(b)	85	81	82	100	100	4.3	0.0
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	27.5	27.2	28.1	34.4	34.4	n.p.	-0.1
South Australia^(e)							
Number of hospitals	8	8	8	40	39		
Number of admissions	44,454	44,557	46,433	65,186	64,136	n.p.	-1.6
Estimated proportion ^(b)	70	70	71	97	97	8.5	0.0
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	27.8	27.5	28.4	39.6	38.6	n.p.	-2.5
Tasmania							
Number of hospitals	4	4	4	4	4		
Number of admissions	17,090	16,756	16,624	15,802	15,475	-2.5	-2.1
Estimated proportion ^(b)	100	100	100	100	100	0.0	0.0
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	34.1	33.1	32.6	30.9	30.2	-3.0	-2.1
Australian Capital Territory							
Number of hospitals	2	2	2	2	2		
Number of admissions	10,160	9,830	11,389	11,362	11,628	3.4	2.3
Estimated proportion ^(b)	100	100	100	100	100	0.0	0.0
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	28.9	27.5	31.2	30.6	30.6	1.4	<0.1
Northern Territory^(f)							
Number of hospitals	5	5	5	5	5		
Number of admissions	6,465	6,289	6,481	7,253	7,808	n.p.	7.7
Estimated proportion ^(b)	100	100	100	100	100	0.0	0.0
Admissions per 1,000 population ^(c)	29.1	27.6	28.1	31.2	33.0	n.p.	5.8

(a) For 2008–09, elective surgery activity for the Albury Base Hospital was reported in New South Wales. From 2009–10, the data for Albury Base Hospital were included in statistics for Victoria. From 2010–11, the data for Albury Base Hospital were not available.

(b) The number of separations with an urgency of admission reported as *Elective* and a surgical procedure for public hospitals reporting to the NESWTDC for the reference period, as a proportion of the number of separations with an urgency of admission reported as *Elective* and a surgical procedure for all public hospitals for the reference period. For 2012–13, this is a preliminary estimate based on 2011–12 data.

(c) Crude rate based on the estimated resident population as at 31 December for that year.

(d) For 2011–12, Queensland was not able to provide data for 3 hospitals that reported almost 10,000 admissions from elective surgery waiting lists in 2010–11. These hospitals did report data for three of the four quarterly periods in 2012–13.

(e) From 2011–12, Western Australia reported data for an additional 22 rural hospitals and South Australia reported data for an additional 32 hospitals. One small South Australian hospital that provided data in 2011–12 did not perform any elective surgery in 2012–13.

(f) Between 2010–11 and 2011–12, the increase in the number of admissions for the Northern Territory was, in part, due to the inclusion of certain surgical procedures that had previously been incorrectly excluded from the NESWTDC by the Northern Territory.

Note: See Box 1.1 and appendixes A and B for notes on data limitations and methods.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013. Australian hospital statistics 2012–13: elective surgery waiting times. Health services series no.51 Cat. no. HSE 140. Canberra: AIHW.