

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 31 May 2011

Question: E11-061

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL DOSIMETRY SERVICE

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Senator Boyce asked:

[For dosimetry audit checks performed] How will you be reporting on those audits and perhaps if possible the costings that will be associated with the audits once you are charging for them?

Answer:

In relation to the reporting of dosimetry audit checks, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency is required, under its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to document the following information every six months:

- a written report on the operation of the Australian Clinical Dosimetry Service (ACDS) specifying the number of each type of audit completed;
- the number of each type of audit scheduled but not completed and the reason for not completing the audit;
- the key findings from each type of audit, including details of compliance rates, retesting and corrective action needed by the Facility;
- any proposed changes to the auditing guidelines, Auditing Methodology or Service Delivery Procedures arising from the activities of the ACDS; and
- any changes in the number of training requirements for the panel of auditors.

By agreement, presentations and publications will be made in the literature and professional fora with de-identified data in a form consistent with international practice. ARPANSA and DoHA may also publicly report the number and type of audits completed and the key findings on each agency's respective websites. In relation to costings, under ARPANSA's MOU with DoHA, the ACDS cannot charge for an audit and participation by organisations is voluntary. However, data is being collected during the trial to enable an evaluation in the third year of operation to consider the cost impact of an ongoing program of dosimetric auditing and options for future funding.