

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-046

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: CHRONIC DISEASE DENTAL SCHEME (CDDS)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Adams asked:

- a) Given that the Government policy is to terminate the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme by 31 December 2011, can the Department outline what steps are currently being taken to facilitate the termination of the programme?
- b) Given that \$1.6 billion has been spent on this programme over the last 2 years, can the Government provide a breakdown of how the \$1.6 billion was spent?
- c) Does the Department have a Programme that will replace this scheme?

Answer:

- a) The date of 31 December 2011 is included in the 2011-12 Budget documentation in recognition of the continued operation of the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme (the Scheme) and the need to make provision for funding its costs in the near term. While it is Government policy to close the Scheme because the Senate has blocked the closure of the Scheme, an actual closure date has not been determined and is not presently before the Parliament.
- b) Over financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 (to 30 April 2011), \$1,164,845,493 in Medicare benefits was paid under the Scheme.

The breakdown of services is as follows:

Subgroup*	2009-10	2010-11**	Total***
Services provided by eligible dentists			
Diagnostic Services	\$28,992,250	\$32,222,327	\$61,214,577
Preventive Services	\$19,585,787	\$23,907,347	\$43,493,134
Periodontics	\$13,393,478	\$15,833,156	\$29,226,634
Oral Surgery	\$28,674,356	\$29,017,390	\$57,691,746
Endodontics	\$21,135,340	\$22,562,596	\$43,697,936
Restorative Services	\$108,083,279	\$117,180,417	\$225,263,695
Crown and Bridge	\$148,103,549	\$148,575,416	\$296,678,965
Prosthodontics	\$130,263,909	\$114,708,782	\$244,972,690
Orthodontics	\$1,282,739	\$1,539,971	\$2,822,710
General Services	\$4,728,894	\$5,340,885	\$10,069,779
Services provided by eligible dental specialists			
Diagnostic Services	\$899,569	\$1,184,317	\$2,083,886
Preventive Services	\$86,939	\$146,559	\$233,498
Periodontics	\$1,477,967	\$2,123,150	\$3,601,117
Oral Surgery	\$1,840,446	\$2,233,764	\$4,074,210

Subgroup*	2009-10	2010-11**	Total***
Endodontics	\$1,830,149	\$2,526,702	\$4,356,852
Restorative Services	\$324,902	\$467,735	\$792,637
Crown and Bridge	\$2,902,417	\$3,872,158	\$6,774,575
Prosthodontics	\$657,126	\$753,688	\$1,410,814
Orthodontics	\$1,030,569	\$1,355,819	\$2,386,388
General Services	\$135,759	\$291,405	\$427,164
Services provided by eligible dental prosthetists			
Diagnostic Services	\$1,970,079	\$2,252,442	\$4,222,521
Prosthodontics	\$59,110,572	\$60,239,392	\$119,349,965
Total	\$576,510,074	\$588,335,420	\$1,164,845,493

* As per Health Insurance (Dental Services) Determination 2007 Schedule 1.

** Year to 30 April 2011

*** 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2011

- c) The Government has stated its intention to close the Scheme. Future initiatives once the Scheme has closed are a matter for the Government.