

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-282

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: ACCESS TO ALLIED PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (ATAPS)

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further evidence at the hearing about ATAPS and Medicare Locals, please advise:

- a) Is funding in 2011-12 going only to 15 Medicare Locals?
- b) Does this mean 75 per cent of the country will have no access to the program?
- c) Does that mean those areas running ATAPS that do not fall within a Medicare Local will cease to have ATAPS?

Answer:

- a) No. In 2011-12, ATAPS funding has been provided to 104 Divisions of General Practice to continue national coverage of the program. These fundholding arrangements will transition to Medicare Locals as they are established and demonstrate capacity to deliver mental health services. Funding has been provided to one Medicare Local - 'Partners In Health Ltd' - which is established and has demonstrated capacity to deliver ATAPS services from 1 July 2011.
- b) No. ATAPS services will continue to be delivered nationally.
- c) No. ATAPS services will be provided through Divisions of General Practice until Medicare Locals demonstrate readiness to deliver ATAPS services. The Department has a transition approach for ATAPS that considers Medicare Local boundary issues.