

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-142

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program

Type of Question: Hansard Page CA 41, 30 May 2012

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Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

What is the average yearly amount that organisations registered in the program have received over the past five years (2007-08 to 2011-12).

- a) Typical small organisations;
- b) Typical medium organisations; and
- c) Typical large organisations.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services does not identify or record the size of organisations.

The service trend of organisations registered under the program varies widely, depending on demand and availability of mental health nurse services¹, as well as number of mental health nurses engaged.

Analysis of nurses engaged by registered organisations² for the period February 2011 to February 2012 shows:

- a) 82 per cent utilise the services of 1-2 mental health nurses;
- b) 16 per cent utilise the services of 3-7 mental health nurses; and
- c) 2 per cent utilise the services of 8 or more mental health nurses.

1 A mental health nurse may provide up to ten sessions of 3.5 hours of coordinated clinical care services per week per eligible organisation under the program (i.e. up to \$2400 per week in Medicare payments).

2 These figures represent individual nurses. Figures for full time equivalent (FTE) nurses may differ.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Total expenditure	\$2.747 million	\$13.386 million	\$21.397 million	\$27.164 million	\$35.643 million
Number of active organisations ³	116	223	315	381	444
Average total payments per organisation	\$23,681.00	\$60,027.00	\$67,927.00	\$71,297.00	\$80,277.00

³ Estimated.