

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: E12-145

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:

- a) How many mental health nurses were registered with Medicare under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program on an annual basis over the past five years?
- b) How many general practitioners have used the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program on an annual basis over the past five years?
- c) How many psychiatrists have used the program on an annual basis over the past five years?
- d) How many divisions of general practice were registered in the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program on an annual basis over the past five years?
- e) How many Medicare Locals are currently registered in the mental Health Nurse Incentive Program?
- f) How many headspace centres are currently registered in the program?
- g) Is headspace defined as an eligible organisation under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive program?

Answer:

In accordance with data supplied by the Department of Human Services -

- a) The total number of active nurses in the program for each year is as follows:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
189	367	441	458	529

- b) The number of general practitioners active under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) on an annual basis over the past five years is as follows:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
78	142	185	227	283

- c) The number of psychiatrists active under the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program on an annual basis over the past five years is as follows:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
17	43	66	84	90

- d) The total number of active Divisions of General Practice in the program for each year is as follows:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12*
21	38	64	70	71

*Data for 2011-12 is to 30 April 2012.

- e) The Department of Human Services advises that data on the number of Medicare Locals currently registered in the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program was not captured as at 30 April 2012.
- f) There are currently two headspace centres registered in the program:
- Western Melbourne, registered as a Division of General Practice; and
 - Gold Coast, registered as a General Practice.
- g) The MHNIP Guidelines state the following in terms of eligible organisations under the program:

To be eligible to participate in the Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program, organisations must be community based and have the services of a general practitioner or a psychiatrist with a provider number allocated by Medicare. Eligible organisations include:

• general practices

• private psychiatry practices

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Services funded by the Australian Government through the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

In addition, Divisions of General Practice can contract the services of mental health nurses for use by general practitioners and psychiatrists with a provider number allocated by Medicare or other medical officers (as approved by the Department of Health and Ageing) working within their Division.

Similarly, Medicare Locals have also been approved as eligible to receive payments under the MHNIP. If you are transitioning existing MHNIP services provided by a Division of General Practice with a different ABN into your organisation, a new registration for this program is required.

A headspace site may be considered an eligible organisation under MHNIP if the governance arrangements and proposed model of care are consistent with the MHNIP Guidelines.