

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: E12-150

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program

Type of Question: Hansard Page 47, 30 May 2012

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

What is the average hourly cost of doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists?

Answer:

The Australian Government is responsible for setting the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) fees with rebates of 100 per cent of the MBS fee available for general practitioner consultations. For all other consultations covered under the MBS, the patient receives 85 per cent of the fee if the service is provided out-of-hospital, or 75 per cent of the fee if the service is provided in-hospital.

However, under section 51 (xxiiiA) of the Constitution, the Australian Government has no authority to control the amount health providers actually charge for their services. Health providers are free to determine the value of the health service they provide. This means that doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists are under no obligation to charge the MBS fee set by the Australian Government.

The MBS rebate for services provided by doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists is also determined by the amount of time each consultation takes. The following table outlines the MBS rebates for services provided by general practitioners, psychologists and psychiatrists under the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists, and General Practitioners under the Medicare Benefits Schedule initiative.

ITEM	PROVIDER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	MBS REBATE
291	Consultant Psychiatrists	Referred Patient Assessment and Management (45+ minute consultation)	\$377.60
293		Review of Referred Patient Assessment and Management (30-45 min consult)	\$236.05
296		Initial Consultation on a New Patient - in rooms - (45+ minute consultation)	\$217.15
297		Initial Consultation on a New Patient - in hospital - (45+ minute consultation)	\$217.15
299		Initial Consultation on a New Patient - home visit - (45+ minute consultation)	\$259.70
2700	General Practitioners	GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (20-40 minute consultation, if NOT done MHST)	\$69.00
2701		GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (40+ minute consultation, if NOT done MHST)	\$101.55
2712		Review of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan	\$69.00
2713		GP Mental Health Consultation (20+ minute consultation)	\$69.00
2715		GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (20-40 minute consultation, undertaken MHST)	\$87.60
2717		GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (40+ minute consultation, undertaken MHST)	\$129.00
80000	Clinical Psychologists	Psychological Therapy Service - in rooms - (30-50 minute consultation)	\$83.25
80005		Psychological Therapy Service - out of rooms - (30-50 minute consultation)	\$104.00
80010		Psychological Therapy Service - in rooms - (50+ minute consultation)	\$122.15
80015		Psychological Therapy Service - out of rooms - (50+ minute consultation)	\$142.95
80020		Psychological Therapy Group Session - 6 to 10 patients - (60+ minute consult)	\$31.05 (per patient)
80100	General Psychologists	FPS Service - in rooms - (20-50 minute consultation)	\$58.95
80105		FPS Service - out of rooms - (20-50 minute consultation)	\$80.20
80110		FPS Service - in rooms - (50+ minute consultation)	\$83.25
80115		FPS Service - out of rooms - (50+ minute consultation)	\$104.55
80120		FPS Service Group Session - 6 to 10 patients - (60+ minute consultation)	\$21.25 (per patient)