

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- 179

OUTCOME 11: Mental Health

Topic: Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) program

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

Can you please provide an update as to the rollout of ATAPS? For example:

- a) What is the geographical spread of these services?
- b) On average, how many sessions are provided to patients on an annual basis?
- c) Is ATAPS operating effectively and is it meeting the needs of specific groups such as people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and/or people living in rural areas who are experiencing mild to medium forms of mental illness?

Answer:

- a) ATAPS services are provided in Medicare Local catchment areas in every State and Territory across Australia.
- b) In 2010-11, clients received on average 5 sessions.
- c) ATAPS is targeted at the most disadvantaged people living in the Australian communities including, children and their families, Indigenous Australians and people living in low socioeconomic areas. Since 2003, 57% of people accessing services under ATAPS have been low income earners and 41% of sessions have been delivered in rural locations.