

LucSenate 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: E12-213

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Telehealth Initiative

Type of Question: Hansard Page 82, 30 May 2012

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Smith

Question:

- a) Can you help me find what total quantum of funds has been allocated to the initiative and then over each financial year (in a Budget sense)?
- b) Do you have any information about the indicative indication of what the expected take-up rate might have been for each state and territory?
- c) What is the total take-up to date in each of the states and territories?

Answer:

- a) The telehealth incentives available for aged care facilities are part of the broader telehealth incentives program, Connecting Health Services with the Future: Modernising Medicare by Providing Rebates for Online Consultations, which is jointly funded through Outcome 3 (Access to Medical Services) and Outcome 10 (e-Health). Total funds available during the active phase for this initiative are:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Available funds (\$m)	27.4	19.7	29.7	76.8

- b) Targets for adoption of telehealth, as published in the Portfolio Budget Statements, are not broken down by state, and no specific targets have been set in relation to adoption of telehealth in aged care facilities.

c)

Telehealth Statistics – per state and territory – As at 20 June 2012

<u>State and Territory</u>	<u>No. of Onboard Incentive Payments</u>	<u>Major Cities</u>	<u>Regional or Remote</u>
Victoria	18	13	5
New South Wales	9	4	5
Queensland	5	3	2
Tasmania	2	0	2
South Australia	1	0	1
Western Australia	1	0	1
Northern Territory	0	0	0
Australian Capital Territory	0	0	0
<u>Total</u>	36	20	16