

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: E12-214

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) I would be interested in understanding within each state and territory what the regional and metropolitan difference, or take-up, was.
- b) If the take-up has been slower than expected, I would be keen to understand what factors might be contributing to that, but also what remedies might be in place. I understand it is only the first 12 months, but if the take-up rate has been less than expected, what remedies are in place and what other factors might have contributed to that?

Answer:

a)

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
Total	36	20	16

- b) While uptake of the telehealth initiative by residential aged care facilities has been slow, there has been a significant increase in applications for the On-Board payment received in the last few months and there are 35 applications being processed as at 20 June 2012.

The Department of Health and Ageing has consulted with the Ageing Consultative Committee to better understand the reason greater uptake has not occurred and will work with the sector to communicate the benefits of the initiative.