

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: E12-266

OUTCOME 12: Health Workforce Capacity

Topic: Rural Health Workforce

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

What is the distribution of general physicians outside major cities?

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing has interpreted this question as referring to consultant physicians, who are generally Fellows of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

The table below shows data for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 for consultant physicians who provided Medicare Benefits Schedule rebated services in group A4, by ASGC remoteness area outside major cities.

Remoteness Area	Number of providers
Inner Regional Australia	823
Outer Regional Australia	282
Remote Australia	18
Very Remote Australia	9

Reference period: determined by the date of data processing.

ASGC remoteness area: based on ABS 2006 classification.

Remoteness Area is based on provider's practice address.

if a provider provided services for more than one area, the area with the most services was selected.