

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: E12-272

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: Telehealth

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 3

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) How much money has the Department spent to date in telehealth training to support the adoption of telehealth?
- b) Can the Department provide a breakdown of telehealth consultations provided to date under the new item numbers(s) by geographical location of the patient, the provider and the specialty involved?

Answer:

- a) The Department has expended \$5.23 million (GST exc) since 2010-11 on the Telehealth Support Program to support the adoption of telehealth services.

b)

Patient and Provider Services, by State as at 31 May 2012

State	Number of Services by Patient State	Number of Services by Provider State
NSW	5,118	5,040
VIC	2,228	2,361
QLD	6,122	6,471
SA	1,749	1,602
WA	3,507	3,690
TAS	741	416
NT	196	79
ACT	34	39
Unallocated ¹	2	NA
Total	19,698	19,698

1. Service not allocated to a state or territory.

Patient Services by Remoteness Area as at 31 May 2012

Remoteness Area Code¹	Remoteness Area Name	Number of Services
0	Major Cities of Australia	4,568
1	Inner Regional Australia	7,054
2	Outer Regional Australia	6,626
3	Remote Australia	1,057
4	Very Remote Australia	390
9	Unallocated ²	2
Total		19,698

1. Remoteness Area according to Australian Bureau of Statistics classification.

2. Service not allocated to a state or territory.

Services by Provider Type as at 31 May 2012

Provider Type	Subspecialty	Number of Services
Consultant physician	Infectious diseases	NFP ¹
	General medicine	306
	Immunology	55
	Cardiology	291
	Clinical haematology	29
	Endocrinology	556
	Gastroenterology	457
	Renal medicine	92
	Neurology	297
	Nuclear medicine	NFP ¹
	Paediatric medicine	1,124
	Rehabilitation medicine	23
	Rheumatology	2,152
	Thoracic medicine	472
	Geriatrics	137
	Medical Oncology	568
	Other	NFP ¹
	Total Consultant Physician	6,660
Psychiatry		3,282
Specialist	General surgery	251
	Neurosurgery	139
	Orthopaedic surgery	61
	Paediatric surgery	NFP ¹
	Plastic surgery	44
	Urology	881
	Vascular surgery	NFP ¹
	Radiation oncologists	190
	Anaesthetics	158
	Dermatology	411
	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	34
	Ophthalmology	162
	ENT	71
	IVF	72
	Diagnostic radiology-specialist	12
	Other	NFP ¹
	Total Specialist	2,616
GP		7,101
Nurse Practitioner/Midwife		37
Total		19,696

1. Not for publication due to confidentiality requirements of the *Health Insurance Act (1973)*.

Source: Analysis of Medicare statistics data based on the specialty the provider is registered with the Department of Human Services for Medicare benefits purposes. Data is based on the date of processing of the claim.