

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: E12-274

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

- a) How much financial support does the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare receive from Health Workforce Australia?
- b) What percentage of the total is this amount?
- c) What evidence can you offer that the AIHW has sufficient capacity (including specialised rural and remote expertise) to accommodate the increase in reporting by remoteness?

Answer:

- a) During 2011–12, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) had a \$430,000 contract with Health Workforce Australia.
- b) The \$430,000 contract between the AIHW and Health Workforce Australia represented approximately 0.8 per cent of the AIHW's total 2011–12 income (approximately \$52 million).
- c) The AIHW already includes regional analyses in most of its health and welfare reports, including the reporting of the various health labour forces. Our work on Indigenous people and issues has a strong focus on remoteness as does the reporting of National Healthcare Agreement performance indicators. As a result, many AIHW staff are experienced in conducting analyses by remoteness.

Further, the AIHW is expanding its capacity to undertake analyses on a detailed geospatial basis. Experience to date has shown data quality to be the most limiting factor in this area rather than staff capacity. Many data sets do not support detailed analysis of geography.